

Proposed Welfare Budget Calls For Close To \$205,000.

County Commissioners In Long Session Handling Affairs On Monday

Meeting in regular session Monday, Martin's county commissioners received several road petitions, drew a jury for the June court, heard tedious and monotonous reports from several department heads, issued a few tax relief orders and tentatively approved the welfare department budget for the 1949-1950 fiscal year. The commissioners, Messrs. C. C. Martin of Jamesville, W. M. Harrison of Bear Grass, J. H. Edwards of Williamston, and C. A. Roberson of Robersonville and H. S. Johnson of Hamilton, were in session until well into the afternoon handling the business on the calendar and literally scratching their heads over the welfare department budget.

The commissioners suggested, upon petitions from citizens, that the State Highway Commission take over, maintain or widen and improve 200 yards of road beginning near the residence of the late Sylvester Lilley and running by the residences of Mrs. Harris and Geo. Revels in Griffins Township; a road in Bear Grass beginning at the Harris Mill Road near John W. Wynn's and running to Stokes Road near Rose of Sharon Church, a distance of three-quarters of a mile; a road from Roy Harrison's farm to R. C. Gurganus' store and known as the Cowan Road, a distance of one mile; and a road in Goose Nest Township, beginning at the Mayo Road and running 300 yards to the Tommie Griffins residence.

Tax Collector M. L. Peel, appearing before the board, explained that certain properties had not been listed and he was instructed to impose the maximum penalty. Peel reported that all but \$22,718.62 of the \$283,428.26 1948 tax levy had been collected. There is a balance due of \$6,332.75 on the 1947 tax levy which originally was \$234,906.57. All but \$2,472.18 of the \$207,459.77 levy for 1946 has been collected, Peel said.

Tax relief orders, based on errors made in listings or on account of death, were issued as follows for 1948:

- L. Boston, Jamesville, \$5.95;
- Columbus Boston, Jamesville, \$11.27;
- James E. Midgett, Jamesville, \$2;
- Lucy Moore, estate, Jamesville, \$5.25;
- Arthur Simpson, Williams, \$4.55;
- W. H. Williams, Jr., Williamston, \$5.71;
- W. Bland, Cross Roads, \$2;
- G. O. E. Andrews, Robersonville, \$2;
- Herbert Purvis, Hamilton, \$2;
- Mark Bunting, Goose Nest, \$2;
- and dogs listed in error accounted for \$4.

For 1947: W. S. Bland, Cross Roads, \$9.61; Geo. E. Andrews, Robersonville, \$4.50; Paul Wynne, Robersonville, \$3; C. A. Fisher, Poplar Point, \$1; Herbert Purvis, Hamilton, \$2.78; Frank Roberson, Hamilton, \$5.92; T. L. Brown, Goose Nest, \$4; Mark Bunting, Goose Nest, \$2.

The 1949-50 welfare budget calls for \$205,024.00, an amount larger by \$68,142.00 than the levy for the department during the 1948-49 fiscal year. Some over three-fourths of the amount is expected from the State and federal treasuries, leaving the county to raise \$48,582.00, or \$3,791.00 more than was called for.

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ENDORSE ISSUE

In a special meeting last Thursday evening, Williamston's district school committee—R. L. Coburn, W. I. Skinner, M. M. Britton, R. H. Goodman and C. B. Clark, Sr.—wholeheartedly and by unanimous vote endorsed the \$25,000,000 school bond issue to be placed before the voters in this and the other counties in the State on June 4. The members, recognizing the need for the fund, pledged their efforts in support of the proposal.

The board considered several faculty resignations but postponed definite action to a later meeting.

Plant Shortage Delaying Transplanting In County

Tobacco transplanting while advancing fairly rapidly in some of the areas in this county is being delayed generally by a plant shortage, according to reports reaching here from nine of the ten townships yesterday. The reports declare that there will be enough plants, but they will hardly be available before and possibly not until after the middle of this month.

Plants in a majority of the beds are growing out of the blue mold, and some are being used now, but most of the beds will hardly produce any plants within the next week or ten days. Quite a few beds were completely wiped out by the mold, reports coming from

the Jamesville area stating that the plant shortage there is serious. Farmer L. P. Holliday said yesterday that only one farmer had found enough plants to start transplanting his crop that others were looking to others for plants.

Farmers in Cross Roads Township are going right along with the transplanting, one report stating that two or three farm operators had already transplanted over 200 acres in one section. Most of the plants were taken from beds that had been treated for the mold, it was learned. A few crops can be seen along the roads in other parts of the county, and where the transplanting was early cultivation will get under way the latter part of this week.

COMMISSIONERS

Holding their last regular meeting tonight, the old town officials will discuss several matters in addition to handling routine duties. The garbage problem, all stirred up by appeals from the Woman's Club, will be aired, according to a tentative schedule, and a sewer line for the proposed new hospital on Liberty Street will be discussed.

David Moore, polling the largest vote among the new nominees, will be sworn in as a member of the board to fill the position made vacant by the death of Commissioner G. H. Harrison. The other new nominees whose election is in progress today have been invited to meet with the old board tonight. They are Lemman Barnhill and Landy Griffin, Sr.

Examine 322 In School Clinics

Three hundred and twenty-two children were examined recently in the pre-school clinics conducted in the nine county white schools by the health department.

Patronage was reported, as follows:

- Williamston, 92; Robersonville, 45; Jamesville, 55; Hamilton, 14; Bear Grass, 25; Hassell, 9; Everetts, 19; Farm Life, 12; Oak City, 31.

Commenting on the clinics, Dr. J. W. Williams said: "We found fewer remedial defects, less undernourishment, cleaner children, greater percent vaccinated against diphtheria and whooping cough but there was about some percentage of children whose parents had neglected the protection against smallpox; notwithstanding our state law requiring this protection by the end of first year of life. No vaccinations will be done in the school this year and after this school year no more vaccinations for those entering school as it is a temptation to neglect this free work for the five years that the child is in most danger."

"The law will have to take its course. These clinics named above were ideal because with the exception of only a few at Jamesville, every child had a parent with him and consultations were complete. I hope the negro school will do as well with their first grades."

Similar clinics are now in progress in the colored schools of the county.

Recover Stolen Car In County

Charged with the temporary larceny of a 1941 Dodge convertible, "Frog" Daniels, Paetolus colored man, was arrested in Robersonville Sunday night by Patrolman B. W. Parker and turned over to Beaufort County authorities. Daniels went to a car dealer in Washington and explained that he wanted the car, that he would like for his wife to see it. Daniels carried the car home but his wife was not there. He returned the car and asked permission to take it a second time, and that was when he did not return it.

N. C. State Band To Play Here May 11

The concert band of North Carolina State College, Raleigh, will give a program here Wednesday evening, May 11, at 8 o'clock and will be the guests of the Williamston Band Parents Club at a picnic supper at 6 o'clock that evening, it has been announced.

The concert is being sponsored by the Band Parents Club and Director Jack Butler of the High School Green Wave Band is completing detailed arrangements for the program which will include some very fine numbers, classical, semi-classical and popular. The band has a very fine reputation and is in demand all over the state. It had bids to Kinston and Washington but accepted the one extended by Williamston.

The members of the junior and senior Green Wave bands will also join the visiting musicians in the picnic supper at the high school cafeteria, making up in a way for their disappointment in being prevented by school work from accepting any of the several invitations they have had for out-of-town appearances next week. Invitations had been received, it is understood, from at least four places but school authorities ruled the trips out because the children will be reviewing during the week for final examinations to follow during the week of the 16th.

Details of the program to be given by the State band will likely be ready for release this week-end according to word received from Major Christian Kutschinski, director. Of interest to local people will be the appearance in the base section of the visiting band of Howell Peele of Williamston who started his work under Director Jack Butler here before the recent World War and has continued it at Raleigh.

Crashes Into Fence At River Bridge

Hugh Brown Moore, stationed with the navy at Portsmouth, escaped injury when he tried to straighten out the highway on this end of the Roanoke River fill Sunday morning at 1:50 o'clock. Traveling into Williamston, Moore lost control of his 1948 Studebaker and tore into the fence, knocking down four posts. He did not go over the embankment.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman J. T. Rowe said the damage would approximate \$150. The young man was charged with drunken driving and his case was scheduled for trial in the county court next month.

Young Man Promoted In the Army Air Force

Curtis Biggs, Martin County young man and son of Mrs. Sallie Biggs, was recently promoted to the rank of staff sergeant in the Army Air Forces. Serving in the air force for almost four years, he was pick-up operator and has over 700 glider pick-ups to his credit. The sergeant, with his wife and their son, Alvin, transferred with the 10th Air Force Headquarters, Indianapolis. Mrs. Biggs is the former Miss Susie Revels, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Revels of Williamston.

Find Stolen Cash On Inmate in the Prison Camp Here

Approximately \$1,000 Stolen In Columbia Taken From Prisoner

Approximately \$1,000 of the several thousand dollars unaccounted for following the Bank of Columbia robbery last fall was found on a prisoner in the prison camp near here a few days ago. Too much money got Buster (Geech) Burgess in trouble.

Following the Columbia bank robbery, Burgess, sent to prison in Cumberland County for robbery, was handling the bloodhounds used in tracking down the robbers. Although accompanied by officers, Burgess spotted and managed to pick up unnoticed several batches of money strewn in the woods by the robbers. There was no cause for suspicion, but several thousand dollars were not accounted for by officers at the time.

A short time ago, Burgess lost his honor rating for a minor infraction of the rules. He was instructed to change clothes and move back "under the gun." He was seen slipping a small tin box into his pocket and Capt. John Delbridge called for it, finding about \$500 in ten and twenty-dollar bills in it. A further search at that time revealed no added cash.

Later that night, Burgess, apparently convinced the search was not over, produced another box of bills and threw them under the stove. Right there the plot thickened. Other prisoners literally ate up the money, and a real "egg" hunt was started. One \$100 bill was found buried in the Bertie sand pit. A \$50 bill was found in a nail keg on a truck. About \$200 was found wrapped in paper in the prison yard, and still more was found at various places. One report said that the box disposed of by Burgess contained about \$800 and another report said it had \$1,900. Including the \$500 found on Burgess' person, approximately \$918 has been recovered.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were called and they have been working on the case but they have made no report, as far as it could be learned.

Burgess, who had his hat shot off by the bank robbers and who was in line for parole, has been transferred to another camp.

"We were plenty rich out here for a short while, but all the money has disappeared and we are just plain poor folks again," Capt. Sessoms said yesterday.

File Damage Suit In Superior Court

Herry Lee Hardison, Martin County man, filed a suit in the Martin County Superior Court last week to recover damages resulting in a highway accident near Norfolk last August 30. The plaintiff is asking damages in the sum of \$361.42 in his case against T. C. Capps and Medlin and Dorman, Inc.

Hardison had stopped his Chevrolet pick-up truck to wait for a drawbridge when a truck driven by Capps plowed into him and knocked his pick-up into the rear of a large navy truck stopped just in front of him.

Hamilton Ballot Ruled Unofficial

Politics, sailing along quite smoothly in the county's eight towns, hit a snag in one of them over the week-end when it was ruled that a ballot was unofficial.

In Hamilton the ballot, ruled unofficial by Mayor Frank Everett, carried the name of G. Alligood for mayor, and the names of J. A. Cherry, W. F. Thomas, W. C. House, R. A. Edmondson and H. S. Johnson. At least three on the ballot had not filed and were not candidates, it was learned. The revised ballot, receiving official sanction, carries the names of Graham Alligood, Frank Everett and R. Sears for mayor; L. R. Everett, Joe Cherry, D. G. Matthews, George Haislip, W. F. Thomas and J. H. Harrell for town commissioners.

Coltrain Left For Prison Today To Start Life Sentence

Convicted In March Term of Court For Murder of W. Thos. Roberson

Convicted in the Martin County Superior Court on March 30 of the murder of W. Thomas Roberson, Griffins Township farmer, John R. Coltrain, formally withdrawn his appeal to the North Carolina Supreme Court yesterday and was transferred from the county jail here this morning to Central Prison, Raleigh, where he is to serve the remainder of his "natural life."

Charged with the Roberson murder on January 26 of this year, Coltrain was convicted by a Hertford County jury of murder in the first degree, but the jury recommended mercy, the recommendation automatically blocking death in the gas chamber in accordance with a law passed earlier in the year by the State Legislature.

Talking with former inmates of the prison week before last, the prisoner was said to have definitely decided to forego the appeal at that time, but no formal action was taken until yesterday.

He told his wife and other members of his family good-bye in jail yesterday afternoon and last night, and left this morning about 9:00 o'clock for the State's prison in the company of Patrolman M. F. Powers and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck.

The following was addressed to Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne:

"The defendant, John Coltrain, comes voluntarily into court, through his attorneys, Cletcher and Gurganus and Albion Dunn, and asks that the appeal from the judgment rendered at the March term, 1949, Superior Court Martin County, be withdrawn and dismissed and asks that he be sent immediately, in compliance with the judgment in the above entitled

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Red Cross Group In Meeting Here

Meeting in the Branch Bank building here last Friday evening, members of the Martin County Red Cross Chapter executive committee heard reports from the several committee chairmen and discussed program plans.

Chairman W. H. Carstarphen presided and he called for the various reports. The fund drive chairman, G. G. Woolard, stated that \$2,930.04 was raised in the recent campaign.

The disaster committee chairman, Chas. H. Manning, said that the truck accident near here last November and involving several Negro families, cost \$708.21, that the national organization reimbursed the local chapter.

Agnes Beale, junior Red Cross chairman, reported that four schools, Williamston, \$45.86; Jamesville, \$19.75; Farm Life, \$19.33; and Bear Grass, \$10.60, had been enrolled. The junior organization had a cash balance of \$24.77. The group discussed plans for sending a delegate to the junior training camp in Alabama this summer.

Dr. J. A. Edens reviewed plans for first aid and water safety, and explained that a first aid class was in progress. Plans were discussed for holding a water safety and life saving school, and the chapter will send students to schools at Brevard and Colerain this summer preparatory to opening classes here some time in June.

Plans were also discussed for advancing a course in home nursing.

Production committee chairman, Elizabeth Parker, said that she planned to handle a program with the assistance of home demonstration club members.

The home service chairman reported that the department had handled 150 clients during the past month, including 58 servicemen or their families and 85 veterans. The division is planning a more extensive program for the future.

G. G. Woolard was named a delegate to the national convention in Atlantic City, but he is to pay his own expenses.

Big Swine Show Is Assured The County

Club Members To Exhibit More Than 100 Hogs At Show

Thirty-six Fat Steers To Be In Show May 12-13 At Williamston

With nearly three hundred animals already booked, the annual Martin County Fat Stock Show on May 12 and 13 is certain to be the biggest event of its kind ever held in this immediate section, according to Assistant County Agent J. W. Sumner.

Club members are working hard to get their thirty-six fat steers in top condition, and preliminary reports declare there'll be some keen competition.

The swine department, holding a position, more or less secondary in the past five shows, is coming in to claim equal if not more attention than the beef cattle show this year. The agent announced this week that 259 hogs are being entered in the show which will be held in the Planters Warehouse in Williamston the latter part of next week.

The 4-H club members and Future Farmers of America will exhibit 103 hogs and individual farmers are to exhibit 156 hogs, but those entered by adult farmers will not be in competition with those exhibited by the youths for the prize money, Sumner explained.

The names of the youngsters, including several from Negro clubs, planning to exhibit hogs in the show follow:

Johnnie Bowen, Peggy Godard, A. P. Griffin, Susan Griffin, Jerry Nicholson, Dick Rogerson and Jack Williams of the Williamston 4-H Club; Raybon Harris, Marion Griffin, Hilton Leggett of the Everetts 4-H Club; Raymond Bennett, Russell Cowan, Philip Peaks and Johnnie Leggett of the Bear Grass 4-H Club; Bennie Ray Hopkins and James Hopkins of the Farm Life 4-H Club; Wayne Bailey, Charles Purvis and Sylvia Crisp of the Hassell 4-H Club; Williamston Hardison and C. A. Martin of the Jamesville 4-H Club; Janice Cox, Elizabeth Ann Cox, Albert Thompson and Buzzie Worsley of the Oak City 4-H Club; Donnie Roberson, Jean Whitehurst, Elliot Harris, J. R. Ward, Clifton Mathews, Mary Alice Warren and Earl Warren of Robersonville 4-H Club.

Wallace James and Benny Ross of Robersonville F. F. A.; Wilton McLawhorn, Joe Roebuck, Charles Edwards, and George Ayers of the Oak City F. F. A.; Howard Gardner, Ray Moore, Larry Jones, and Fay Ange of the Jamesville F. F. A.

James Albert Manning, Arthur Manning, Rudolph Lee, Johnnie Peele, Jr., Hosea James, Cleveland Brown, Willie Brown, Randolph Cottlebridge, Alton Peele, James Brown, Willie C. Brown, Herbert S. Roberson of the Robersonville 4-H Club.

Demonstrate New Collection Truck

A manufacturers' representative demonstrated the latest in garbage trucks here yesterday, and the vehicle attracted much attention but on comment was forthcoming from town officials. The outfit, costing between \$6,000 and \$8,000, will get some consideration possibly tonight when the officials meet with the new board nominees.

Garbage is dumped into the rear of the truck and then it is compressed by hydraulic pressure into the large box body. Starting at 7:00 o'clock yesterday morning, the truck served about one-fourth of the town and picked up approximately 7,000 pounds of garbage by 2:30 o'clock. The officials holding their noses, saw the truck dump the load in a matter of minutes on the town dump near Sweet Water Creek.

DIRECTOR



Alford Sweatt, recently appointed managing director of the Williamston Boosters Club, assumed his new duties yesterday. Mr. Sweatt comes to Williamston from Charlotte where he had been employed by the Charlotte Merchants Association.

Mr. Sweatt is a native of North Carolina, having been born and reared in Concord. During the war years he was attached to the AAF, Air Transport Command in Washington, D. C., and Cincinnati, Ohio. He subsequently was employed by Dun and Bradstreet in Cincinnati; later transferring to that company's Dayton, Ohio, branch office. Several years ago he left Dun and Bradstreet to become Sales and Promotion Manager for the Charlotte Merchants Association. In Cincinnati, Dayton and Charlotte, Mr. Sweatt was active in civic affairs, Little Theatre work and Junior Chamber of Commerce activities.

Able Appeal Made For Cancer Drive

Reporting that his township (Williams) collected \$21 in excess of the quota assigned in the current cancer fund drive, Chairman Chas. L. Daniel declared yesterday that three of his canvassers got out and really worked.

The three canvassers, led by Mrs. Erget Jones with approximately \$26 collected, raised \$56 and sent the district over the top among the first to complete the drive.

A complete report for the county is expected momentarily from the chairman, T. F. Harrison. Last Thursday the drive was about \$200 short of its \$1,500 quota. Two townships had not reported at that time and the drive was not complete in several others.

Local Boy Is Host To 22,136 People

William R. Davenport, storekeeper, third class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly D. Davenport of Williamston was host to 22,136 people of Plymouth, England, aboard the heavy cruiser Columbus, during the British Navy Days.

The Columbus, flagship of Admiral Richard L. Conolly, Commander-in-Chief of Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, joined warships of the Royal Navy in the entertainment of British civilians during the annual Navy Days observance.

The visiting citizenry of Plymouth, home port of the Columbus, were conducted on inspection tours of the ship.

Conference To Be Held In the Methodist Church

The Elizabeth City District Conference will meet in the local Methodist Church in an all day session Wednesday beginning at 9:30 a. m. Two hundred and fifty ministers and laymen are expected to attend.

Rev. J. Herbert Miller of Elizabeth City, District Superintendent will be in charge of the conference.

Superior Court In Final Session Of Term Late Friday

Referee Named To Hear Claims In Case of Cherry Against Dennis Hardy

The special term of Martin County Superior Court, called the week of April 18, dragged to a close last Friday afternoon shortly before 5:00 o'clock. Encountering long, drawn-out and highly involved cases, the court cleared comparatively few cases from the calendar. The proceedings heard by Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn of Woodland, attracted very little attention from the public, and there were very few spectators in attendance upon the sessions at any time during the term.

The court observed Easter Monday as a holiday, cleared several divorce cases from the calendar the next day and called a few damage suits before recessing the following day until Monday of last week. The Tuesday session of last week was interrupted when several members of the bar were called out of town, but the court called extra jurors and three full days were spent hearing several lengthy cases.

After working several hours on the \$15,000 suit brought by J. B. Cherry against Dennis L. Hardy the court appointed H. G. Horton referee to hear the evidence and report his findings at another court term. The defendant maintained that he bargained to buy certain property near the old fairgrounds at Williamston, that the defendant withheld the deed, that he made improvements to the property in the sum of several thousand dollars. The plaintiff maintains he is entitled to rent.

Starting the trial of the \$10,000 damage suit brought by Dallas Ray Green, colored youth, by his next friend, C. W. Griffin, against Roy Bowers, the court worked on it from Thursday afternoon until closing time Friday before the jury, deliberating the issues forty minutes, rendered a verdict, giving the plaintiff a judgment in the sum of \$1,000. The child was struck by the defendant's truck in Parmele last September 15 and spent weeks in the hospital.

Pointing out that the verdict was different from what he would have rendered, Judge Burgwyn did not act to set the verdict aside. In accordance with law, he allowed the plaintiff's attorneys a fee in the sum of \$333.33, \$100 for

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Makes Final Report On Red Cross Drive

In making his final report on the recent Red Cross fund drive conducted recently in this chapter, Mr. G. G. Woolard, chairman, said that an additional \$12 had been turned in to the treasurer by W. D. Speller, colored. The total collected by the colored minister in the eastern section of the town amounted to \$32.

The total collected by the Martin County Chapter stands at \$2,993.04.

Store In Everetts Robbed During Last Sunday Night

Breaking into Harry Hardy's store in Everetts sometime during Sunday night, robbers stole a few pennies and a small quantity of candy, reports reaching here stating that nothing else was missed.

The robber knocked out a window glass in the back of the store to gain entrance.

LITTLE INTEREST

Little interest was reported shortly before noon in most of the municipal elections today in this county. Hardly more than two dozen had voted here at that time and it is possible that the count will not be much larger than the 47 votes cast two years ago in the general election.

A report from Hamilton stated that much interest was being shown in the election there, and that indications pointed to one of the largest votes ever cast in a municipal election there.