

## Propose Tri-County Sweet Potato Project

### Edgecombe, Pitt And Martin to Hire Potato Specialist

#### Farm Leaders See the Sweet Potato As Big Crop In Place Of Cotton

Expecting many farmers to turn to the sweet potato to fill up quite a few of the acres going out of cotton production this year, farm leaders, meeting in Bethel last Friday evening appealed to county officials in Edgecombe, Martin and Pitt to take a hand and help guide the potato program. The appeal was well received by representatives from the boards of commissioners from the three counties who are expected to consider employing a full-time sweet potato specialist to guide the program in the three counties.

Called by Mr. J. P. Harris, president of Bethel Auction Co., the meeting, attended by about thirty farmers, officials and business men, heard a review of the rapidly expanding potato program, and discussed plans for entering a competitive market by stressing quality. Mr. Harris said that Bethel handled about 32,000 bushels of sweet potatoes on its auction market last fall, that it would be expanded this year.

Henry Covington, state extension sweet potato specialist, briefly addressed the meeting, declaring that unless farmers in the three counties go all out for a quality potato they'll be disappointed in the end. He said that 75 percent of marketing is production; that is, growing what the market wants.

Reviewing the history of the crop, Covington said that the Porto Rico potato was introduced in Louisiana in 1906, that the growers there had to learn about it the hard way. They shipped the potatoes in barrels, then in sacks and later in baskets, and they had to learn the hard way.

Covington, who worked in Louisiana potatoes for about ten years, said that we can profit by the mistakes of the Louisiana growers, that we have the climate, variety, soil, freight differential and the know-how, and should get out and produce a quality potato and reclaim the eastern markets.

Pointing out that a special agent could render valuable assistance, Covington pointed out that the following factors are important and must be considered, seed selection, disease control, fertilization, spacing, cultivation and harvesting.

"We must look upon the sweet potato as a crop and not as a red-headed stepchild," the specialist said. He went on to tell about the sweet potato canneries in Louisiana and how they handled certain grades of potatoes at an advantage. He estimated that North Carolina shipped about 3,000 cars of potatoes last year.

Following Mr. Covington's talk, Mr. Harris said that after observing the condition of the crop as it moved to the market last fall, he and other interested citizens realized that there was a great need for educational work among the farmers. It is to advance that educational work that the group asked for a specialist. "We have no axe to grind. We are interested in the farmers and our section," Mr. Harris explained.

John Goodman, assistant director of State Extension, said that

#### Plan Meeting For Negro Farmers on January 11

Moyle S. Williams and C. E. Clark, Farm Management Specialists, State College, Raleigh, N. C., will conduct a meeting on Farm Planning and Outlook for 1950, Wednesday night, January 11, at 7:00 o'clock at the Williamston Negro High School.

Every farmer interested in better farm management and the farm Outlook for 1950 should attend this meeting.—R. McK. Edwards, Negro County Agent.

### MARKETING CARDS

Those farmers who have not returned their tobacco and peanut marketing cards to the office of the county agent in Williamston are asked to do so without delay. Production credit cannot be given the growers until the cards are checked with the warehouse or market receipts, and it is to the advantage of the grower to have this done, it was pointed out.

## Reviews Work Of Civic Club Here

(By Wendell Peel)

Retiring President S. P. Woolford's comprehensive report on the 1949 achievements of the local Kiwanis Club shared the spotlight with new officer installation ceremonies at the Jan. 5 meeting of the club.

In summarizing the activities of the club under his administration, Woolford paid tribute to several committees whose cooperative efforts contributed highly toward the record. Singled out for special commendation were the Youth Services Committees and the Citizenship Services Committee.

One of the second group of committees spearheaded the club sponsorship of the Martin County Fat Stock Show which turned out to be the largest show of its class ever held in North Carolina. Another of these committees took a leading role in the establishment of a National Guard Unit in Williamston. A third committee with this group was very active in encouraging support of the various churches in their spiritual aims.

The Youth Services Committees also played a major role in the club activities. Through one of the committees of this group, the club participated in Boy Scout work and various other youth programs. Another youth service committee sponsored a contribution by the club to the Eastern Carolina Training School Christmas Party. This committee also furnished and distributed for the club food, candy and toys to several local families during the Christmas season.

At the conclusion of his report, Woolford called upon W. H. Carstarphen to act for Hugh Horton in the installation of new club officers and directors. Horton, a past Lieutenant Governor of the Carolinas' Kiwanis District, was scheduled to participate in the installation ceremonies but could not be present.

Executive officers installed by Carstarphen were Fitchugh Fussell, immediate vice-president, as president, C. B. Clark, Jr., as vice-president and Wendell Peel as Secretary. Carstarphen was installed to the office of treasurer by retiring President Woolford, who will be one of the directors for the current year. Other directors installed at the meeting were Marvin Britton, David Davis, Sam Getsinger, James Manning, Frank

## John L. Jenkins Dies In Tarboro

John Latham Jenkins, prominent Tarboro business man and brother of Mrs. Hugh M. Burras of Williamston, died at his home in Tarboro last Thursday after a long period of declining health. He was 87 years old and had made his home in Tarboro for nearly seventy years, moving there from the farm in Edgecombe County.

Funeral services were conducted Friday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock in Calvary Episcopal Church, Tarboro, and interment was in the churchyard there.

Besides his sister in Williamston, surviving are a son, Francis P. Jenkins and a daughter, Mrs. Rawls Howard, both of Tarboro; and a brother, Herbert M. Jenkins of Washington.

## Funeral Monday At Spring Green For Mrs. Roebuck

### Well-Known County Citizen Died In a Washington Hospital Friday

Mrs. Nellie Tice Roebuck, well-known Martin County citizen, died in a Washington hospital Friday evening at 8:40 o'clock. She had been in declining health for almost three years, spending about two and one-half years in bed. Her condition had been critical since the day after Christmas when she entered the hospital the last time. During the course of the past three years she had received treatment in Durham and Washington hospitals at intervals.

The daughter of the late J. C. and Sallie Davis Tice, she was born in Griffins Township 78 years ago on September 2, 1871. When a small girl she moved to Poplar Point where she was married in 1886 to Frederick J. Roebuck who died in 1940. She made her home in Poplar Point until last October when she went to live with a daughter, Mrs. W. E. Grimes, near Stokes.

Mrs. Roebuck was a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist Church at Spring Green for many years. She was devoted to her family and friends, and even during her long illness she seemed to get much out of life.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. W. E. Grimes of Stokes, Mrs. Sallie Bridges of Washington, D. C., Mrs. Frances Sprague of New Bern and Mrs. Beatrice Hopkins of Raleigh; four sons, Claude L. Roebuck of Raleigh, Dr. C. T. Roebuck of Colerain, Jason Roebuck of Newcastle, Pa., and Alphonso (Strutt) Roebuck of St. Pauls, N. C., sixteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. One of the great-grandchildren was born in the same hospital where and on the same day Mrs. Roebuck died.

Funeral services were conducted in the church at Spring Green Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by the pastor, Elder W. E. Grimes, assisted by Elder A. B. Denson of Rocky Mount. Interment was in the Spring Green Cemetery, not far from her old home.

## Native Of County Dies In Hospital

Gainor R. Holliday, native of this county, died in veterans hospital, Kecoughtan, Virginia, last Saturday evening at 7:00 o'clock. Suffering a stroke a few days earlier, he was removed to the hospital from his home on a farm in Hertford County.

The son of the late James Alfred and Courtney Elizabeth Modlin Holliday, he was born in the Jamesville section on August 27, 1892. He left there about twenty five years ago and farmed near Williamston and in Poplar Point, later locating in Hertford County where he farmed. He served about six months in the armed forces during World War I.

He was married to Miss Maggie Vick of Virginia and she survives with three children, J. D. James and Gainor, Jr., all of Hertford County. Also surviving are three brothers, Waldo Holliday of Jamesville, Perlie Holliday of Poplar Point and Hoyt Holliday of Williamston, and a sister, Courtney Elizabeth Holliday of Washington, D. C.

Funeral arrangements had not been announced early today, but one report stated he would be buried in Virginia.

## Fire Call Late Last Saturday Night Here

A fire alarm was sounded about 11:30 o'clock last Saturday night when a trash fire just off North Houghton Street went out of control. Residents in the neighborhood went into action and had the fire out just as firemen were making ready to leave the station. No damage was done.

## Re-Entered Hospital In Rocky Mount Last Week

In declining health for several months, Mr. W. H. Williams re-entered a Rocky Mount hospital last week for further treatment and possibly an operation.

## Mule Kicks Back When Hit By Auto On County Road

Struck by an automobile about 10 o'clock Sunday night near Leggett's Mill in Bear Grass Township, a farm mule counterattacked and left his footprints in the car door before running into a nearby field, according to Patrolman B. W. Parker. The animal could not be found immediately and it is not certain if he was injured. No one in the 1941 Ford car was hurt and damage to the machine was estimated at about \$12.

Reporting the accident to the patrolman, the car driver declared the animal kicked with a vengeance. The animal was one of two running loose in the highway, reports stating that the mule owner accepted the damage done to the car.

## Must Activate Guard Unit By January 24

### Guard Now About Ten Men Short Of Minimum Strength

#### Elbert S. Peel, Jr., Succeeding James L. Harris, Jr., Who Resigns

All set to command the newly organized National Guard unit in this county, James L. Harris, Jr., was ruled out physically last Friday when he underwent a stringent physical examination in Raleigh. Elbert S. Peel, Jr., has been named to succeed Mr. Harris as commander of the unit by the several Williamston civic organizations sponsoring the undertaking.

Tuesday, January 24, has been set as the deadline for bringing the unit up to minimum strength, and final plans for activating the unit will be discussed at a meeting to be held in the American Legion Hut tonight at 7:30 o'clock. It was reported that the unit is now within about ten men of minimum strength. Since the last meeting much interest has been advanced in the final organization plans, and the new commander believes the requirements will be met either tonight or by the end of this week. Just as soon as the personnel reaches the required minimum, headquarters will be established at the municipal water plant. Part of the old plant will be partitioned off and the lot fenced in for a fairly large number of vehicles, including mounted anti-aircraft guns.

There are still openings for full-time personnel with fairly good salaries. Regular guardsmen are paid \$2.50 per drill with allowances and other features, including retirement. The guard is open to men between the ages of 17 and 36, inclusive, and to older men who served in World War II. Young men especially are invited to attend the meeting tonight and hear a full discussion of the plans for the unit. Those men who have already signed up are being asked to bring potential recruits with them to the meeting.

The guard unit will release approximately \$35,000 in the county annually. The construction of an armory is to be expected in time, if the unit measures up to expectations, it was explained.

## Department Adds Nurse To Staff

Henrietta A. Mebane, registered nurse, recently joined the nursing staff of the Martin County Health Department, Dr. J. W. Williams announced yesterday.

She is a native of Wilson and was educated at Hampton Institute, Shaw University, and received her degree from Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing, Durham. She did graduate work in the School of Public Health, University of Michigan, and for more than three years served as health educator for the Greensboro Tuberculosis Association.

She is to work among the colored citizens of the county, meeting a need long felt in this county, Dr. Williams said.

## Discusses Outlook For Agriculture In The State In 1950

### Decline of Nearly 10 Percent Expected In Prices During The Year

M. S. Williams, farm management specialist, discussing the 1950 farm outlook, says that for the country as a whole, farm prices probably will decline about ten percent. For North Carolina, the decline may be slightly less. Cost of most production items will remain high. There are little prospects for price declines in machinery and equipment, fertilizer, and other major cost items. Consequently, North Carolina farmers in general can expect lower net income in 1950 than in 1949, unless steps are taken to adjust to the changing price picture. The post-war rise in agricultural prices has been lost. From the peak in January, 1948, farm prices in the U. S. have declined nearly twenty percent and are now back to about the level of July, 1946. This decline has been cushioned in part by price supports.

The average farmer, says Williams, will not need to retrench but should be sure of markets before expanding production. Long-time plans should be made on the basis of conservative prices for products to be sold.

The support price for tobacco will be slightly higher in 1950, due to the new parity formula, and prices will probably be about the same as in 1949. Other crops and livestock prices will no doubt be lower than in 1949. In 1950, the support price will determine the price of major crops and livestock and livestock products. The price of tobacco, cotton, peanuts, corn and wheat probably will be at or near support level, assuming a normal crop.

The present government acreage control program on cotton, peanuts, corn, and wheat seems sure to continue and probably will be expanded to include other crops. Control of livestock production may be in the picture in the next few years.

The present price support program, enacted into law in 1949, seems almost certain to be changed in 1950. Long-time plans must be based on efficient production rather than on anticipated price support level. It seems probable that some kind of support prices will be continued, but sooner or later at lower levels.

## Draw Jury For County's Court

Twelve persons have been drawn for jury duty in the Martin County Recorder's Court next Monday when they are scheduled to hear a drunken driving case and another charging a liquor law violation.

Those drawn for jury duty include the following: Jamesville Township: Edward Lee Martin, L. C. Brown, Arnold Modlin, C. B. Fagan, Enoch Gardner.

Griffins Township: Julius M. Manning.

Hamilton Township: Willie J. Knox, Elwood Everett, Jimbo E. Newsom, Wheeler Warren, A. P. Hyman.

Goose Nest: A. L. Smith.

## Recover Stolen Car In County

A 1949 Chevrolet sedan, stolen in Washington, D. C., on December 22, was recovered in the Flat Swamp section of this county last Wednesday by Patrolmen B. W. Parker and D. E. Perry.

John Conley and Jeremiah Wilkins, colored man, were arrested, and a preliminary hearing held in Rocky Mount before a U. S. commissioner they were held in \$1,000 bond. The case was turned over to the FBI and the two men are to face trial in the federal court at Raleigh.

## Deliver First Sweet Potatoes To Market

### POSTPONED

First postponed on account of the New Year holiday on Monday of last week, the local town commissioners were postponed again last night when several members found it impossible to attend. The meeting is now scheduled for Wednesday evening of this week at 8:00 o'clock, and it is expected that important business will be discussed at that time.

## Second Shipment Leaving Packing Plant Here Today

### Increased Demand and Higher Prices Predicted Later In the Season

Battling against many odds and overcoming numerous obstacles, the newly formed Martin County Yam Growers Association last Saturday, washed, graded and waxed the first load of sweet potatoes for delivery to the northern markets. Returns from the shipment could not be had immediately, but the association is going ahead with a second shipment of some over 400 bushels today.

The grading and packing operations, handled on one of the latest model machines at the association's plant on Washington Street, near the Dixie Peanut Company, were handled under the supervision of Farmer Mayo Hardison, assisted by Farmer Shep Holliday. The first operations were observed by quite a few interested persons, including a goodly number of farmers.

While the quality was only fair, the shippers exercised every care to meet grade and quality requirements as they entered the market for the first time. A few of the non-classified were shipped also.

Commenting on the outlook for the crop, a representative of the association said this morning that the market until now has been sluggish, owing possibly to the warm weather and dull demand. "However, with colder weather in prospect, increased shipments are almost certain," the representative explained.

Just as soon as the association can test the markets with the shipment made last Saturday and the one going out today, farmers will be advised of market prices, and arrangements can be made to start handling the crop for individuals.

A meeting of the board of directors of the association will be held tomorrow evening when marketing plans will be discussed.

A general sweet potato meeting is being scheduled later this month, and hundreds of growers are expected to attend. Henry Covington, potato specialist from State college, will discuss the prospects for sweet potatoes in 1950. Farmers and others interested are invited to attend the meeting.

## Church Group In Recent Meeting

The general theme of the quarterly convention of the Albemarle Christian Missionary Union held in Bethel last Wednesday was "Pressing for the Completion of the Crusade." John L. Goff, president, presided over the morning session. A devotional was read by George E. Downey, Minister of the Belhaven Church. The outstanding feature of the morning session was a forceful sermon by Reverend Leonard W. Boynton. Luncheon was served in the social rooms of the Church by the Women's Council.

The afternoon session was presided over by E. Leon Roebuck, vice president of the organization. The devotional was read by Miss Etta Nunn of Washington, and the outstanding feature of the convention was a missionary message by C. Manley Morgan, who has for many years been missionary to Porto Rica. His message was timely and forceful. The "Field in Brief" portion of the program was covered by reports on "Women's Work" in the State by Mrs. H. H. Settle; the "Religious Education" program in the State by T. P. Inabinett, State Secretary. "North Carolina Missions" was reported by C. C. Ware, State Secretary, after which Dr. Cecil A. Jarman reported on the activities of the Atlantic Christian College in Wilson.

Dr. Jarman's report went somewhat into detail about the approaching completion of the new girls' dormitory which is to cost between \$400,000 and \$500,000. This is expected to be ready for occupancy in March. The Hardy Memorial Library, to cost approximately \$200,000 is also under construction.

Dr. Jarman is serving as Acting President since the resignation of

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## Dies Suddenly Near Jamesville

Ernest Sawyer, Jamesville Township farmer and respected citizen, died suddenly at his home in the Poplar Chapel community last Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. He had finished his dinner and was in the living room when he suffered a heart attack, dying a few minutes later.

The son of the late Frank and Annie McNair Sawyer, he was born in Plymouth on March 30, 1899, and lived in Washington and Martin Counties all his life. He was a member of St. Delight's Church near Plymouth for a number of years and was married on January 1, 1911, to Miss Ludie Holliday of Jamesville.

Surviving are his widow, six sons, Linwood of Norfolk, Abner of Plymouth, George of Portsmouth, Charles and George of Shiloh and David Sawyer, U. S. Army stationed at Langley Field; two daughters, Mrs. Raymond Price of Plymouth and Miss Mary Sawyer of the home; two brothers, Tom Sawyer of Plymouth, and Dennis Sawyer of Norfolk; and a sister, Mrs. George Watson of Norfolk.

Funeral services are being conducted Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock at the home by Rev. Frank Butler of Washington assisted by Rev. D. W. Davis of Plymouth. Interment will be in the Holliday Cemetery near the home.

## Ruritans At Oak City In Meeting

The Oak City Ruritan Club holds its regular meetings on the second Thursday in each month. At the December meeting the club observed Ladies' Night. Had forty-five present. The Woman's Council of the Hassell Christian Church served a delicious turkey dinner. The meeting was called to order by President James Hope Ayers and the Secretary H. M. Ainsley led the group in singing America after which Chaplain J. L. Hassell gave the invocation.

The following are officers of the club for 1950: President James Hope Ayers; Vice President B. F. Sloan; Secretary H. M. Ainsley; Treasurer Jack Smith; Chaplain J. L. Hassell; Sgt.-at-Arms R. P. Naron. The directors: J. L. Hassell, R. A. Haislip and Sidney Mallory who will serve one to three years respectively. James Hope Ayers, Hurdford Smith and Hassell Worsley are delegates to the National Convention which convenes at Myrtle Beach, S. C., on 23, 24 and 25 of January. The committee on welfare, Jack Smith and J. S. Mallory, delivered Christmas boxes to needy families on Dec. 24.

The food committee for January is: J. B. Whitfield, Hassell Worsley and N. L. Hyman. They will serve "Steamed Oysters" in the Agriculture building of the Oak City school.—H. M. Ainsley, reporter for club.