

Martin Farm Bureau Officers Re-Elected

Under Secretary Of Agriculture Is Invited To Speak

Big Annual Meeting Will Be Held In County Friday, May The Fifth

Farm Bureau leaders, representing every section of the county, last Friday night re-elected the organization's officers and board of directors and made tentative plans for holding the big annual meeting and barbecue to be held in the county on Friday, May 5.

Under Secretary of Agriculture Albert J. Loveland was extended an invitation to address the meeting. The United States department official is expected to accept the invitation if there is no conflict. "We will be very fortunate if we can get the well known farm leader and prominent public official to address us," a member of the Farm Bureau said. The meeting, one of the largest of its kind to be held in the State, is certain to attract a goodly number of dignitaries and more than 2,000 members of the organization in this county.

Recognizing the able service rendered by the old officers, members of the organization last Friday night unanimously voted for their re-election, as follows: Chas. L. Daniel of Williams, president; Sam T. Everett of Robersonville, vice president; Mayo Hardison of Poplar Point, secretary and treasurer; directors: George Oglesby of Hamilton, Henry Early of Goose Nest, S. T. Everett of Robersonville, Mayo Hardison of Poplar Point, G. H. Forbes of Cross Roads, H. U. Peel of Bear Grass, D. V. Clayton of Williamston, J. Carl Griffin of Jamesville, C. L. Daniel of Williams, and Geo. C. Griffin of Griffiths.

Speaking to the group and reporting on the State convention held in February, President Daniel said that while his job offers no cash remuneration, he considered it a great honor to serve. "The Farm Bureau, one of the greatest organizations outside the Church, has great opportunities to work for the welfare of all the people. Organization can do more things than work for high prices. It can render a great service in promoting projects and upholding high ideals," Mr. Daniel said, adding that he looked to the membership for help and for suggestions.

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Farm Program In Great Confusion

Just returned from a meeting of P.-M. A. officials in Raleigh, County Chairman Geo. C. Griffin, in a short talk before a Farm Bureau meeting in the agricultural building last Friday night, declared that certain features of the farm program is now mired down in great confusion.

He voiced the opinion that the recent muddling in Washington had done much to harm the farm program. Referring to the change in the cotton program, Mr. Griffin said there is some doubt if its regulations can be worked out before June, that a few states will reap most of the benefit from the change. "Back yonder allotments were determined and the growers voted all the way across the board for it. Apparently a few large growers brought political pressure and had the cotton program rolled and muddled over until we have got little or nothing," he said.

The peanut program change, while offering little to the growers in North Carolina, permits excess planting and the disposal of the excess for oil at oil prices, the P.-M. A. man said. "There is some consolation, however, in the fact that while growers in this State had their allotments reduced seven percent this year, growers in other states had theirs reduced as much as 35 percent."

ENCOURAGING

Preliminary reports coming from all parts of the county were said this week to be very encouraging for an extensive drainage program in this county. More than 500 persons have signed petitions, asking the commissioners to place the proposal before the people in a special election.

Briefly, the plan calls for the drainage of the main creeks and streams in the county, the project to be financed with a county-wide tax of not more than 10 cents on the \$100 property valuation.

Dual Shooting In Cross Roads Area Late Last Sunday

K. D. Smith and Geo. Henry Ward, Both Colored, In Greenville Hospital

An argument, said to have started over a 14-month-old \$10 debt, was climaxed by a dual gun attack near James Mizelle's small country store in Cross Roads Township last Sunday afternoon. K. D. Smith, 30, was shot through the left thigh and George Henry Ward, 32, was hit in the chest. Smith used a .32 caliber pistol, and Ward retaliated with a .25 automatic. Both victims were removed to a Greenville hospital for treatment and both are expected to recover.

Knocked to the ground by the bullet, Smith was subjected to further assault when his victim, aided by Ward's brothers, Jesse and John, pounced on him. Jesse used a brick. John kicked him and Jesse used his fists. Jesse and John were jailed and ordered held by Sheriff M. W. Holloman pending the completion of his investigation. A former resident of the Cross Roads section, Smith left his home in Pitt County Sunday to attend a ball game in his former neighborhood. During the game he was said to have brandished a pistol, firing wildly two or three times. After the game Ward asked about the \$10 debt and an argument started. Smith fired first, it was said, and Ward immediately retaliated.

Farm Meetings In The County

By R. McK. Edwards, Negro Farm Agent

Three meetings on corn and cotton production and blue mold control will be held at the following schools during this week: Hassell, April 11, 8:00 p. m.; Oak City, Wednesday, April 12 at 8:00 p. m.; and Williams Lower School, Thursday, April 13 at 8:00 o'clock p. m.

Farmers living in those areas are urged to be present.

Four hundred and seventy-five 4-H club members, representing eight 4-H clubs in this county, joined in celebrating National Negro Health Week which was April 2 to 9. Nine other 4-H clubs will present similar health programs at their regular meetings during this week.

Holograph Will Filed In Court

Thought at first to have left no will, Dr. Jesse E. Ward, late of this county, expressed his wishes in a writing probated in the superior court a few days ago. In the briefly written will, dated August 3, 1947 and unwitnessed, the doctor left all his "earthly possessions, both real and personal, to Mrs. Cliffo Moore Ward to have and to hold so long as she may live or care for them." The paper added, "This would include everything that I may possess."

Eight Plaintiffs Seeking Divorce In Superior Court

Ninth Plaintiff Is Asking Alimony Without A Divorce

Eight divorce cases have been placed on the calendar for trial next Monday when Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn opens a two-week special term of the Martin County Superior Court. No criminal cases will be heard during the term, but a goodly number of civil cases are scheduled for trial.

All of the divorce cases are based on two-year separation grounds, one including adultery to support the claim to absolute divorce. In a ninth case the plaintiff is seeking alimony without divorce, the defendant countering with a charge of adultery.

In his case against Annie E. Moore, the plaintiff, Wallace C. Moore says they were married in 1940 and separated in August, 1947, that no children were born to the union and that the defendant is believed to be living in Philadelphia.

Mozella Salsbury in her case against LeRoy Salsbury says they were married on December 25, 1937, separated in September, 1947, and that no children were born to the union.

In the divorce case, Joe Moore against Mary Moore, the plaintiff says they were married in August, 1940, and separated January 15, 1948, that three children born of the union are living with and are supported by the plaintiff, that the defendant is believed to be living in Bridgeport, Conn.

Suing for divorce, Wyoman J. Allsbrook, in her case against Robert A. Allsbrook, says they were married November 12, 1938, and separated on November 28, 1947, that the one child born of the union is living with her. The plaintiff asks custody of the child.

Married in 1942 and separated in January, 1948, Alton Clay Roberts is seeking a divorce from Mildred Roberts, stating that no children were born to the union.

While the parties have been separated more than two years, the case of Ruby Bullock Ross against Willie Edward Ross charges the defendant with adultery, but no respondents are named in the complaint which alleges that he was intimate with other women before and after separation. The one child, born of the union, lives with and is supported by the plaintiff.

Arthur Cherry is suing Fannie Cherry for divorce, stating they were married in November, 1940, and separated in January, 1947, that no children were born to the union.

Mildred Norman is suing Alphonos Norman for divorce.

Suing for alimony without divorce, Frances G. Early in her case against Edward L. Early, says she was abused and beaten and that her life was threatened by the defendant. They were married on July 4, 1941, in Edgecombe County, that two of the three children born of the union are living with the plaintiff in Washington, D. C., where she is employed in the Census Bureau, and that one is with the defendant. At a hearing.

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Record Crowds Present For Easter Services In County

Possibly all previous attendance records were broken Sunday when thousands crowded into the various churches in the county for regular worship and hundreds participated in special sunrise services in Woodlawn Cemetery here, the one at Robersonville and the Tice Cemetery in Griffiths Township Sunday. Approximately 500 persons attended the early morning service here. While the weather was none too favorable and there was no bright sunrise, the service was very impressive. All the ministers of the town participated and a combined choir sang for the special service which also featured a solo by Rev. Stewart B. Simms.

Sunday school attendance figures were increased by more than a third in some instances, pushing the 300 mark in several. The churches were filled for the morning worship services.

Badly Stabbed In Cafe Here Sunday

DeSoto Jones, young colored man of near Williamston, was badly stabbed by Harry Stokes in the Crystal Grill on Washington Street here Sunday night. Details of the attack could not be learned immediately, but Stokes was ordered held under a \$150 bond until a hearing could be arranged.

Stokes, claiming he used a finger nail file, drove the blade of the weapon deep into Jones' left thigh. Unable to get a doctor in Williamston, the man was removed by Deputy Sheriff Raymond Rawls to the Ward Clinic in Robersonville where Dr. V. A. Ward closed the wound with a dozen stitches.

Infant Dies Near Here Early Monday Morning

In delicate health most of its life and suffering an attack of influenza and pneumonia, Zedie Celcia Pate, six weeks old, died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Pate, Jr., in Williams Township at 7:00 o'clock yesterday morning.

Funeral services are being conducted at 2:30 this afternoon and interment will follow in the Andrews Family Cemetery in Williams Township.

Approve Negro High School For The Oak City Section

After detailed and on-the-spot study, the State Board of Education last week approved the construction of a Negro high school for the Oak City section, the action upholding plans advanced by the Martin County Board of Education and solving, temporarily at least, a problem that has been hanging fire for some months. The State Board acted after sending representatives to make a study of the problem, and after Dr. H. L. Trigg, Negro member of the board, made a personal survey.

The school at Parmele is to be continued, and plans for the one to be built at Oak City have not been formulated.

While the action taken by the board last week solves the problem on its present surface, the board itself indirectly admitted that it could hardly be permanent when the possibility was considered for consolidating Oak City and Parmele and using the buildings for elementary departments.

It is fairly certain that the opening of a high school for Negroes in Oak City or vicinity is going to materially affect Parmele enrollment. Opponents to the Oak City building saw this and reportedly carried their argument into the private chambers of the governor and other officials in Raleigh.

It is expected that the properties at Parmele will have to be renovated, meaning that much money could be spent on a building that might be vacated later on, partly if not in its entirety.

colored men, K. D. Smith and George Henry Ward, were painfully but believed not seriously hurt in a dual shooting at James Mizelle's store in Cross Roads Township Sunday afternoon. Both of the men were carried to a Greenville hospital for treatment. Two others, Jesse Ward and John Ward, both colored, were placed in the county jail for and alleged part in the assault.

DeSoto Jones, young colored man, was painfully stabbed at Williamston's Crystal Grill Sunday evening and Harry Stokes was charged with the assault.

Young Man Badly Injured In Auto Accident Friday

Several Highway Accidents Reported In County During Week-end

A young man was gravely injured, another was painfully hurt and property damage soared in a series of seven highway accidents in this county during the Easter week-end, according to incomplete reports coming from police officers and members of the highway patrol late yesterday afternoon.

Oliver Harrison, Jr., young Bear Grass farmer, suffered a broken back and internal chest injuries in a freak accident near Mr. Gomer Harrison's home in Bear Grass Township last Friday afternoon. Engaged with another man in cutting wood, Mr. Harrison had walked to the road and was on his way home when Ernest Harrison stopped and picked the two men up.

The victim was said to have insisted that he would be all right riding on the front bumper of the Model A coupe. They had gone only a short distance when the bumper broke, throwing the man into the path of the car which was said to have been running hardly more than ten miles an hour at the time. The wheels apparently did not run over the man, but he was caught in the running gear and rolled over and battered. Given first aid treatment in the Ward Clinic at Robersonville, he was later removed to a Washington hospital where his condition continues critical.

Making an investigation, members of the highway patrol described the accident as a freak one with no apparent recklessness on the part of the car driver.

No one was hurt but property damage, estimated at \$250, resulted when the 1939 Chevrolet driven by Miss Catherine White of Windsor, and Joe Peel's 1946 Ford crashed at the East Main Street stoplight last Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock. Police Chief Jno. Roebuck made the investigation.

Saturday afternoon about 5:45 o'clock, L. L. (Zeke) Rhodes of near Williamston lost control of his two-ton Chevrolet truck on the old Greenville or Prison Camp Road in the Everett curve near Robersonville. The machine turned over and pinned him underneath the body, breaking his shoulder. Three others, riding in the truck, were not hurt, Patrolman B. W. Parker, making the investigation, said. The truck had to be lifted off the man. No estimate on the property damage could be had immediately.

Sunday morning at 9:00 o'clock, Theodore Watson, driving a Pontiac out West Main Street, started to make a right turn. Seeing two children in the intersection, he stopped and Jos. Melton Terry ran into the rear of the Pontiac with his 1949 Mercury, injuring no one but causing about \$350 damage to his car and about \$300 to the Pontiac, according to preliminary estimate made by Chief John Roebuck who made the investigation. The Watson car almost turned over, the officer explaining that a guide wire caught it and blocked the turn.

Sunday afternoon at 4:15 o'clock, James Hardy Council started to turn his 1940 Ford off Highway 125 into the Oak City ball park and he was struck by a car owned by Donald Jernigan of Windsor and driven by Mary Dickens of Scotland Neck. No one was hurt and Council accepted the damages, estimate at about \$75 by Patrolman B. W. Parker, the investigating officer.

Suffering some kind of attack, a young Plymouth man named Hardison lost control of his 1941 Oldsmobile a short distance beyond Gardner's Creek early Sunday night and was thrown to the highway. The car ran to and fro on the highway two or three times and finally plowed into a ditch bank on the left, causing about \$100 damage, according to an estimate gained from Patrolman John T. Rowe who made the investigation with Patrolman B. E. Burton. Hardison, picked up by a Biggs ambulance, was removed to Brown's hospital for examination and treatment. It was reported that his injuries were negligible.

A short time later that same

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Officials Named To Hold May Elections

HONEST MAN

Finding a roll of paper money on a Williamston street last Friday, a young man who asked that he be given no publicity, turned the cash over to Sheriff M. W. Holloman.

The officer said the owner may get the money by reporting to him and offering a satisfactory description. The amount was less than \$50, it was learned.

Elmer R. Chesson Died Late Sunday Following Stroke

Well Known Farmer In This Community For A Number of Years

Elmer R. Chesson, well known farmer of near Williamston, died at 11:30 o'clock Sunday night, a few hours after suffering a stroke of paralysis. He had been in declining health for some time, but apparently was getting along very well Sunday when he and three of his sons, Ellis, Larry and Shelton, went to visit his mother in Roper.

Returning home early that evening, Mr. Chesson suffered a stroke of paralysis just this side of Plymouth and received medical treatment in a local doctor's office. His removal to a hospital was advised, and he was pronounced dead upon arrival at Edgecombe General Hospital in Tarboro.

The son of Mrs. Annie Waters Chesson and husband, the late Mark Chesson, he was born in Washington County 57 years ago in January, 1893. After spending his early life near Roper, he moved to this county with the family and lived and farmed near Williamston. He was an industrious farmer until declining health forced his retirement a few months ago.

Mr. Chesson was married to Miss Ora Cherry, and was highly regarded as a neighbor and friend.

Surviving besides his widow and mother, are six sons, Wesley Chesson of Boston, Ellis Chesson of Robersonville, Elmer, Jr., Hubert, Larry and Shelton Chesson of the home; four daughters, Mrs. Margaret Peed, Mrs. Annie White and Miss Madeline Chesson of Williamston, and Mrs. Minnie Ward of Monroe; four brothers, Jack Chesson of Robersonville, Willie, Fred and Bruce Chesson of Williamston; and three sisters, Mrs. Walter Knowles and Mrs. Myrtle Lilley of Roper, and Mrs. Cliff Hunter of Plymouth.

Funeral services are being conducted at the home near here on the old Everetts Road this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. Hilary Worthington, Methodist minister of Robersonville and pastor of Vernon Church in Mr. Chesson's community. Interment will be in the family plot in the Robersonville Cemetery.

Smith Manager Not Announced

As far as it could be learned here, no manager for Willis Smith, candidate for the United States Senate, has been named for this county. The candidate's headquarters in Raleigh last week sent a representative here in search of a manager, it was reported, but if the mission was successful no announcement was publicly made. It was reported the representative was directed to other fields.

A lone Smith lapel button made its appearance on the street after the representative departed. If other buttons were left they were made conspicuous by their absence.

ENTERS HOSPITAL
Ralph N. Early, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Early of Oak City, entered Duke Hospital yesterday for treatment and possibly a major operation.

All Democrats To Serve In Precinct Posts On May 27

County Elections Board Held Meeting In Court-house Last Saturday

Meeting in the courthouse last Saturday morning, Martin County Elections Board members—C. D. Carstarphen, chairman of Williamston; Hassell Worsley, secretary of Oak City; and Wade Vick, Republican member of Robersonville—named officials to hold the May 27 primary election in the county's thirteen precincts, and opened on Saturday, April 29, in compliance with law.

Since there is no State or district Republican contest to be considered in this county with the likelihood that no Republican ticket will be advanced within the county, the primary on May 27 will be strictly a Democratic Party affair. The law provides for the election of Democrats only to preside over the family disputes or contests, it was explained. Republicans will be entitled to representatives among the precinct officials when the general election is held next November, however.

Quite a few changes were made in the election officials, most of the old ones having asked to be relieved of the duties.

The following precinct officials were named by the board last Saturday, Chairman Carstarphen announced:

Jamesville, F. C. Stallings, registrar; J. L. Knowles and Annie Mae Lilley, judges of election.

Williams, Joe Lawrence Coltrain, registrar; R. J. Hardison and Chas. L. Daniel, judges of election.

Griffiths, Oscar Peel, registrar; Delmus Rogers and A. B. Ayers, Jr., judges of election.

Williamston No. 1, Wendell Peel, registrar; Joe G. Corey and Julian H. Harrell, judges of election.

Williamston No. 2, S. Harcum Grimes, registrar; Chas. R. Mobley and Reginald Simpson, judges of election.

Cross Roads, H. M. (Buck) Ayers, registrar; W. L. Ausbon and Oscar Ayers, judges of election.

Robersonville, Allen Osborne, registrar; T. L. Roebuck and J. H. Roberson, Sr., judges of election. Gold Point, Harry Roberson, registrar; J. W. Taylor and H. L. Warren, judges of election.

Popular Point, W. Slade White, registrar; Luther Leggett and Herman C. Harrison, judges of election.

Hamilton, Wade Everett, registrar; G. A. Oglesby and George Haislip, judges of election.

Hassell, E. K. Edmonson, registrar; C. B. Burroughs and Geo. W. Ayers, judges of election.

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Home Destroyed By Fire Saturday

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the small home of Essie Clemmons and badly scorched the nearby Georgia Mitchell home on Broad Street here at 4:00 o'clock Saturday afternoon, causing a combined loss that will probably run in excess of \$2,000. The Clemmons home was only partially insured, and none was carried on the contents. Insurance is expected to cover the damage done to the Mitchell home.

Members of the Clemmons family were in one part of the house and the fire started in another part, gaining much headway, before it was discovered. By the time an alarm could be turned in, smoke was rising high into the sky. Firemen, guided by the smoke, reported directly to the fire while others carried the fire-fighting equipment there.

Battling the fire for more than half an hour, firemen were only able to check the fire after it had burned most of the standing timber, and managed to save the Mitchell home.