

Tobacco Prices Set A New High Record

Prices Soaring To 85 Cents A Pound On Local Market

Average Right At \$58.00
Per Hundred Established
Here Yesterday

Tobacco price records, established in 1919 and at the close of World War II, toppled yesterday when the local market sold 265-254 pounds for an official average of \$57.78. The previous high record was entered in the books on October 11, 1946, when approximately 230,000 pounds were sold here for an average of \$56.73. The old records show that the quality of the tobacco offered for sale in 1946 was far superior to that offered for sale yesterday. There's no telling what the price average will climb to when the better grades of tobacco are offered in larger quantities.

A taste of what to expect was had yesterday when Farmer Perlie Rogers of Bear Grass sold 1,024 pounds for an average of \$77.48. The sales were recorded as follows: 124 pounds at 68, 60 at 85 cents, 154, 134 and 154 pounds at 79 cents, and 158 and 240 pounds at 78 cents per pound. As far as it can be learned from the records, the individual sale ranks among if not at the top of the highest ever reported here. The major companies bought every pile.

The hundreds of farmers, selling here, are well pleased with their sales. Quite a few of the patrons point out that the quality of their crop is poor, but that the prices are high, and they are doing all right.

A rather sad note was heard this morning when two farmers explained they were marketing the last of their crops. It is estimated that more than 25 percent, possibly one-third, of the crop in this area has already been sold. The estimate is hard to accept since comparatively little of the middle-of-the-stalk tobacco has made its appearance so far. How-

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Station Plans Formal Opening

Operating as Pete Raynor's Service Station under the personal management of Mr. Raynor, Williamston's newest and one of its most modern filling stations will formally open here Saturday.

Equipped with every modern convenience and probably the best fixtures and machinery in this section, the station will feature Texaco products and Firestone tires and batteries in addition to the usual accessories stocked by a modern service station.

Just recently completed the station was built of cement blocks and the front is covered with handsome white rock tile. New pumps have been installed on the front with adequate space for the convenience of the customers and operators.

For the formal opening, prizes will be given men, women and children. For the children Texaco candy lollipops and Texaco Fire-Chief hats will be given free by the management. The men will be given Havoline motor oil banks and razor blade containers; to the women Texaco thimbles and tape measures.

Colored Patients In New Hospital

Work on their quarters delayed by material shortages, the first colored patients entered the Martin General Hospital here this week.

Maggie James, entering the hospital Tuesday, underwent a major operation yesterday morning. A daughter was born to Sarah Roberson early Wednesday morning.

Twenty-two Cases On The Docket In Recorder's Court

Several Road Sentences are Meted Out; Fines Total More Than \$600

Holding its first afternoon session in recent weeks, the Martin County Recorder's Court handled twenty-two cases last Monday. Several road sentences were meted out and fines amounted to \$615. Jury cases are scheduled for the next several sessions.

Proceedings: Charged with an assault, Edward "Ted" Scott was found not guilty. The prosecuting witness declared that Scott started on him with a knife, that he (the witness) shot Scott. The charge did not stand up in court.

Charged with assaulting his wife, Ophus Revels was sentenced to the roads for three months. The road term was suspended upon the payment of the costs.

Adjudged guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, George Perry was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Ananias Lyons was adjudged not guilty of disorderly conduct. B. B. Spruill, charged with disorderly conduct, was fined \$25, plus costs. He appealed to the higher court and bond was required in the sum of \$500.

Pleading not guilty of assaulting a female, William Wimbush was adjudged guilty and drew three months on the roads. The road term suspended upon the payment of the costs and on further condition that the defendant does not in any way molest the prosecuting witness, Lena Mae Eason, during the next two years.

Pleading not guilty of drunken driving, Garland Thomas Roberson was found guilty of speeding and careless driving and was fined \$35, plus costs.

H. W. Ford, charged with violating the liquor laws, was adjudged not guilty.

Charged with forcible trespass and found guilty, Elmer Rodgers was sentenced to the roads for six months.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Nemo Stanley was fined \$100, plus costs. The court recommended that the defendant's license to operate a motor vehicle be revoked for a year.

Ralph Boston was fined \$25, plus costs, for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Pleading guilty of speeding, Floyd Gorham was taxed with the costs.

Tom Council pleaded guilty of violating the liquor laws and was sentenced to the roads for nine months. The road term was suspended upon the payment of a \$75 fine and costs. The defendant is not to violate any liquor law during the next five years.

Wilmer Biggs was taxed with the costs for speeding.

George Peterson, charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, failed to appear and papers were ordered issued calling for his arrest.

Pleading guilty of violating the liquor laws, James Taylor was sentenced to the roads for six months. The road term was suspended upon the payment of the costs and a \$50 fine. The defendant is to violate no liquor law during the next two years.

Samuel Timothy Carter was required to pay the costs in the case in which he was charged with speeding.

John Norfleet, charged with careless driving, pleaded guilty and was fined \$15, plus costs.

Charged with drunken driving, Charlie Gaston Curtis pleaded not guilty and called for a jury trial. The following jurors were called:

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Small Amount Of Leaf Tobacco Stolen Recently

A small amount—about seventy pounds—of graded tobacco was stolen from the Claxton House farm near Hamilton a short time ago.

Officers followed a track and found some tobacco believed to have been that stolen from the farm. However, the owner said he could not definitely identify it and no further action was taken.

Asking Strict Enforcement Of Traffic Laws At Fires

Reasonably lenient in the enforcement of traffic laws when fire alarms are sounded, local police are expected to crack down on violators in the future, it was announced following a meeting of Chief of Police John Roebuck and volunteer firemen last night.

Officers are to be stationed on the corners and general traffic will be delayed one or two minutes, giving firemen who travel in their own vehicles a chance to get to a fire.

No individual, other than members of the fire department, is to be allowed to run within or park near a fire. Officers will ride the fire truck and violators can be expected to be cited to the courts.

The action is being taken following several fairly recent fires when volunteer firemen were actually pushed to the curb and when the second truck was called to a fire and found the way completely blocked by cars belonging to spectators.

Officers and firemen expressed the hope that the public would cooperate and make citations to the courts unnecessary. There'll be no warnings issued, the announcement pointed out.

Insurance Plan For All County School Children

Small Fee of 40 Cents Will Give Protection To Each Child

A group accident insurance plan under which every enrolled child in the Martin County School System will be covered with accident insurance, will go into effect at the beginning of the school year.

J. C. Manning, superintendent of Martin County Schools, reported the action today. Manning said that while the Board of Education and the schools themselves have no legal liability in case of accident or injuries to children in the performance of their normal school duties, it has always been a matter of serious concern to the school when children were injured and had to be taken to the hospital, often they know the parents were unable to pay the bills.

He said that this type of coverage will relieve that kind of situation greatly and will assure every child attending school in Martin County adequate medical attention in case any accident occurs to him in connection with any of his school life while on the school property. It has been the desire for many years among both teachers and parents, according to Mr. Manning that some plan of coverage might be found which would provide financial assistance in payment of medical or hospital expense that might come as a result of such injuries.

Since the cost of accident insurance is higher than the average family feels that it can afford, very few children have the benefit of such coverage, he said.

However, through this group school child accident plan, each child will contribute 40 cents per year. Then all students in the school unit will be adequately provided with accident coverage during the school day, Manning revealed.

The plan has been discussed with a number of parents all of whom are enthusiastic in their praise of the action.

At a recent meeting of the principals, it was decided, with the assistance of the parents, to undertake the program of protection for school children.

The policy, according to Manning, covers the children while within a school building or on the school grounds or premises effective one hour before school takes in and lasting one hour after school dismisses. Another unique feature of the policy is that it covers practicing for or participating in sports and gymnastics.

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No General Holiday Here Next Monday, Labor Day

There'll be no general holiday here next Monday—Labor Day.

However, all federal offices, including the post office, will suspend general operations that day. The tobacco market here and all others throughout the belt will not operate Monday. A few other businesses, including the banks, the Virginia Electric and Power Company, will close for the day, and the ABC store will be on the "dry side" that day.

County offices, including the county court, general stores and offices will remain open as usual. The Martin County Commissioners are holding their regular meeting next Monday, but reports from the board clerk indicate there'll be little business on the calendar for the day other than routine matters.

While there will be no sales, the local tobacco market will be open to receive tobacco Monday for sale Tuesday.

There'll be no mail deliveries either in town or rural areas Monday.

Williamston's town commissioners will hold their regular September meeting on schedule next Monday night at 8:00 o'clock.

Reviews Enlarged Social Security Coverage In Area

Checks Will Be Larger And Thousands Will Be Added To The System

Here is what happened to old-age and survivors insurance in this area this week when President Truman signed the 1950 amendments to the Social Security Act.

All monthly insurance checks now being paid to the 4,147 social security beneficiaries in the 15 counties administered by the Rocky Mount Field Office will be raised substantially, beginning with the September checks, according to M. H. Barney, Manager of the local office. Mr. Barney explained that these automatic increases, for September, are scheduled to reach local beneficiaries during the first week of October. Increases will range from about 50 per cent to about 100 per cent. For example, the average primary benefit of approximately \$26 per month for a retired worker will be increased to about \$46. A widow with two children who has been receiving \$55 a month, will now receive about \$110 altogether.

Manager Barney said that under the old terms of the social security law the 4,147 beneficiaries in this area would have received about \$60,172 (total) for the month of September. Under the new increases, however, total payments for September are estimated to be about \$113,417, or an immediate increase of some \$53,245 monthly in insurance benefits to this area.

Under the new law the amount of earnings which a beneficiary may make in a month, and still accept his insurance payment for that month, is raised from \$14.99 to \$50. This applies to beneficiaries under age 75, and for earnings in a job covered by social security. After attaining age 75, a beneficiary may have any amount of earnings and still accept his insurance checks.

Approximately 9,700 more people may have old-age and survivors insurance under the revised law. For most of the new groups, coverage will be mandatory after January 1, 1951. However, employees of non-profit charitable, religious, and educational institutions will come under social security only if the employer chooses and if two-thirds of the employees express a wish to participate. Employees of State and local governments may have social security coverage on an optional basis but the State government must take the initiative if it chooses to participate. An estimated 2,950,000 workers are in the two groups subject to optional participation in the program.

A very important aspect of the new legislation is the more liberal qualifying conditions. Mr. Barney pointed out that any individual now age 65 or more who has at least six "quarters of coverage" may be immediately eligible for monthly benefit payments. It has been estimated that about 750,000 old people in the United States may qualify for insurance payments under this clause. Many aged persons may now claim benefits even though they have not been employed long enough to qualify under the former requirements. Barney said that this would offset the considerable number of aged persons in this area who had once filed claims for social security benefits but had not at that time been able to qualify. The social security office here has been reviewing records for several weeks to screen as many as possible of these persons and will send letters notifying them that benefits may now be payable if the claim is renewed.

Other persons not yet age 65—those now 63 and over—will also only need six quarters of coverage—roughly a year and a half of employment in work covered by social security—to be insured upon reaching age 65 and retiring. A sliding scale requires long employment for those reaching age 65 after 1953, but in no case will a person be required more than ten years of employment under social security in order for benefits to be payable.

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County Schools Start New Year Next Week

REGISTRATION

Registration books for the proposed \$200,000 bond election here will be opened by Registrar John E. Pope in his office on Washington Street tomorrow. The books are to remain open for eight days or through Saturday, September 9. The election, to decide whether the town will move forward or go backward, is to be held on Wednesday, September 20.

It has been pointed out that no new registration is necessary, that any person who participated in a town election in recent years will not have to register again to vote in the bond election. There are those who have never voted or registered in the town, and to participate in the September 20 event, they will have to get their names on the books. The town registration is not to be confused with the county registration.

Justice Of Peace Hears Few Cases

Justice Chas. R. Mobley heard a few cases in his court this week, imposing fines in the amount of \$35 and sending one or two defendants to the higher courts for trial.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Johnnie Matthews Williams was bound over to the county court for trial next Monday. Bond in the sum of \$200 was required.

Louis Clark, Hubert Page and Cecil Williams, charged with being drunk and disorderly, were each fined \$5 and taxed with \$8.85 costs.

James Stokes was fined \$16 and required to pay \$5.85 costs for simple assault.

Mark Griffin, charged with disorderly conduct, was fined \$10, plus \$5.85 costs.

Business Firms Moving Offices

When Dr. J. T. Llewellyn moved his offices from Smithwick Street to the Williamston Clinic in the Martin General Hospital he set the stage for a regular moving spree.

Del-Mar's beauty shop moved a few days ago to the Llewellyn building from Baltimore Street. Bill Howell is moving his bookkeeping service offices from Baltimore Street to offices in the Llewellyn building, and Attorney Robt. Cowen is moving his offices to the Llewellyn building also.

J. E. Pope is moving his insurance offices to the location being vacated by Messrs. Howell and Cowen on Baltimore Street.

Pastors Return To Local Church

Rev. N. J. Ward and Rev. George A. Cooper this week returned to the pastorates of local and county churches by the Conference held in Falcon.

The Rev. M. Ward is returning to the Williamston and Rehoboth Pentecostal Holiness Churches for the fourth year. The Rev. Mr. Casper is returning to the Bethany church for his fourth year also.

The return of the two ministers by the Conference recognizes the able work carried on by them during the last three years.

Rev. W. K. White was assigned to Merritt Chapel.

Taken Ill While On Local Warehouse Floor

Mr. Mack Lamb, popular on the tobacco market for the American, was taken ill suddenly while attending his duties in a warehouse here yesterday morning. He was removed to Brown's Community Hospital and was reported much improved this morning.

7,600 Enrollment Figure Predicted In Entire System

Colored Schools Opening Tuesday; White Schools Open Wednesday

Vacation days are ending in this county next week for approximately 7,600 youngsters—3,500 white and 4,100 colored. Possibly a few will stretch the vacation period a few days, but school officials are preparing to greet the nearly 8,000 children, the 4,100 colored Tuesday and the 3,500 white pupils Wednesday.

Plans for opening the schools are well advanced, and final details for opening the white schools will be handled at a series of three conferences, beginning next Monday evening. There'll be an informal meeting of the county white teachers in Williamston's elementary school at 8:00 o'clock for a get-acquainted session. Rev. E. R. Stewart, Supt. J. C. Manning, school officials, P. T. A. leaders and others will have brief parts on the program.

Next Tuesday morning at 9:30 o'clock in the elementary school here, there'll be an open forum with Dr. R. M. Fink, consultant in mental hygiene, school-health coordinating service; Geo. S. McRorie, president of the Martin County Unit of the North Carolina Education Association; Alida W. Tyler, Josh Hassell and Charlotte Abernathy leading the discussions. A luncheon session will follow at 1:00 o'clock in the Woman's Club where Dr. Arnold E. Hoffman, State Supervisor of Music, will address the group.

Colored Schools—The eighteen colored schools—two under the 1949-50 count—are to open next Tuesday morning at 9:00 o'clock for registrations, followed by the distribution of books and lesson assignments the following day.

The last of the one-teacher schools in the county—Corey's—is disappearing and the pupils in that area are to go to Jamesville this year. Another consolidation eliminates the two-teacher Jones school, the pupils in that area to go to Whichard-James.

Last term there were 4,069 children enrolled in the county's colored schools, but the average daily attendance sagged to a low of 3,389. In 1948-49 there were 3,822 children enrolled in the colored schools. There were 113 teachers.

White Schools

The white schools are to open the new term at 1:30 o'clock next Wednesday afternoon when registrations are to be handled. Books are to be distributed and lessons assigned on Thursday, with a full school day scheduled for Friday.

There were 3,491 pupils enrolled in the nine white schools last year with an average daily attendance of 3,215 pupils. In 1949-50 there were 3,354 white children enrolled in the nine schools. There are 138 teachers in the white schools.

The combined school system will operate 55 buses this year—forty for the white and 15 for the colored schools, including four new units for the colored.

Hold Funeral For Dr. John D. Biggs

Funeral services were conducted at the home on Halifax Street here yesterday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock for Dr. John D. Biggs, 72, who died in a local hospital Tuesday morning following a long period of declining health. His pastor, Rev. Stewart B. Simms, assisted by Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister; Rev. John L. Goff, pastor of the local Christian Church, and Rev. John Lawrence, Wilmington minister, conducted the rites. Interment was in the family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery.

It was one of the doctor's last requests that no flowers be sent, but many friends throughout the State made floral offerings.