

## Ballentine Talks To County Farm Bureau Members

### Annual Meeting Held Last Friday at Williamston School Auditorium

On over-production of food and fiber once concerned the farmers of this nation, but now the farmer, decreasing in number, must think in terms of more production, L. Y. Ballentine, State Commissioner of Agriculture, told the annual meeting of the Martin County Farm Bureau held in the Williamston High School auditorium last Friday afternoon.

The actual number going into the auditorium for the more serious part of the annual Farm Bureau program did not measure up to expectation, but those rushing for the barbecue missed much by remaining outside.

Clarence Gurkin offered the invocation, and Chas. L. Daniel, president of the county unit, made a few remarks, declaring that the Farm Bureau was organized during a depression and out of necessity and not for social reasons. "Some say the barbecue dinner is a waste of money, but I think it is worth it," Mr. Daniel said, adding that unless something is done to sustain the farmers' organizations, agriculture will go bankrupt. He pointed out that the people of this county are becoming more Farm Bureau-minded, that the organization has accomplished much. The organization now has 2,200 members in this county, and the Farm Bureau has supported the farm program which in turn has been loyally supported by all the people, Mr. Daniel explained. After recognizing special visitors, Mr. Daniel called on Elbert Peel who introduced the speaker.

A follower of the Farm Bureau, Mr. Ballentine said he recalled that when the Farm Bureau was organized in North Carolina, agriculture wasn't doing too well. "It hasn't been to many years ago when there was constant dread of overproduction of food and fiber, when the farmer was recognized as a rugged individualist," the ag-

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## Wild Ride in Two Stolen Vehicles

Robert Henry Smith declares he remembers little or nothing about it, but officers and others declare he went on a wild ride in two stolen vehicles early last Friday morning.

Operating all alone, he drove away a large Norfolk Southern passenger bus from the Plymouth station just before or soon after last Thursday midnight. His first recorded stop, as far as it could be learned, was made in Farmer Naamon Whitaker's yard just west of Everetts on Highway 64. Smith had crashed through the yard fence with the bus. Whitaker went out, surveyed the damage and Smith finally backed out, reversed his direction as far as Everetts and turned toward Spring Green. He had traveled just a little over a mile when he wrecked the bus. Deserting that vehicle, Smith wandered from house to house, finally walking to Everetts where he stole Bill Bullock's 1951 Ford right from under the owner's nose. The car was hardly more than ten feet away from where Mr. Bullock was sleeping about 4:00 o'clock in the morning. Smith backed the car out of the drive, and Mr. Bullock did not discover it missing until almost noon Friday.

Smith, said to have damaged the car little or none, parked it in an alley at Plymouth, and threw the keys away. A resident of Plymouth found the keys and mailed them to Mr. Bullock whose name was on a tag attached to the keys. Plymouth police were notified Sunday that a car had been parked in the alley for a couple of days. Smith was arrested and returned to this county.

Given a preliminary hearing before Justice Chas. R. Mobley last night, Young Smith, a neat looking lad, pleaded guilty of stealing Mr. Bullock's car and drunken driving. Unable to arrange bond in the sum of \$750, the youth was returned to jail.

## Farm Bureau Man Favors Support For Point 4 Plan

Just out of an important meeting held in Washington, R. Flake Shaw, North Carolina Farm Bureau executive vice president, declared all-out support for the Point 4 program or economic aid to foreign countries. "It will cost a lot of money, but I know it's worth every cent," Mr. Shaw said.

Talking with a representative from India, Mr. Shaw learned that there's a movement to control malaria in that vast country. "But the representative pointed out that if the people are saved from malarial deaths there won't be enough food for them and they'll die of starvation," Mr. Shaw said, adding that we got to

find some way to feed the people. The Farm Bureau leader expressed his appreciation to the people of this county for their support of the organization, for their consistency of purpose, support, principles and development.

While he has no doubt about the future of agriculture in this nation, he declared there is no way to get along without the farm program, that there must be support prices and adjustments. The Farm Bureau is a whale of an outfit, but the speaker admitted that tension ran high within just as it does in all other organizations or agencies. He added, "We disagree without being disagreeable."

## Four Injured In Car Accidents In County

### EASTER

Religious services during the Easter period attracted record numbers and were among the most impressive ever held in this section. Churches were filled to capacity for nearly every service, including those held each morning during Holy Week.

The sunrise service held in Woodlawn Cemetery Sunday was attended by perhaps the largest number ever to assemble there. Quite a few came here from several nearby towns and the countryside. While a bit cool and cloudy, the weather was favorable for the event. The program rendered with a cross in the background, was broadcast over Station WIAM.

## Found Guilty of False Pretense

Mandy Ebron, 502 Sycamore Street, was tried Thursday morning before Justice C. R. Mobley on the charge of attempting to evade the Employment Security Law while filing claims for unemployment compensation benefits at the local Employment office in that she failed to report that she was working and did not report her true earnings. She was found guilty and the judgment of the court was a thirty-day jail sentence suspended upon the repayment to the Commission of the amount overdrawn by reason of her failure to represent her earnings correctly and the cost of the action.

Further penalties follow such convictions. Not only is the claimant ineligible for benefits for the remainder of the benefit year, but the amount of the benefits received after the first week of the commission of the false reporting must be liquidated before any benefits can be drawn in the future.

## Small Quantity Canned Goods Stolen Recently

Breaking into a Railroad Street warehouse sometime between late Saturday and early yesterday morning, thieves carried away about thirty-five cans of fish and pineapple juice belonging to the C. O. Moore Grocery.

### SAVED THE DAY

Joe Williams, one of the first organizers for the Farm Bureau in this State, returned to this county for the organization's barbecue last Friday.

"I recall the hard days back yonder when many did not have enough to live on let alone fees for an organization," Mr. Williams said. "I am glad to be back and tell you that Martin County helped save the Farm Bureau in North Carolina back yonder and has carried on to help build it into an 80,000-membership organization," he added.

## Property Damage Adds Up To \$2,230 In Seven Wrecks

### One Victim Came Out Of A Submerged Car Without The Slightest Injury

Starting early last Sunday morning, motorists started piling up the wrecks on Martin County highways, injuring at least four persons and running up a property loss conservatively estimated at \$2,230.

Death was missed by inches in at least three of the wrecks, one victim coming through without a scratch after his car turned over several times and plunged into and completely submerging itself in a creek. Another victim was only slightly injured when a truck load of logs turned over with him, and other victims rode out of a head-on collision without fatal injury.

Patrolmen R. P. Narron and B. W. Parker were kept busy during the week-end cleaning up wrecks and watching over the largest volume of traffic ever to move over the highways in this section.

The first in the series of seven accidents was reported near the Copeland farm on the River Road last Thursday morning at 9:15 o'clock. Ponce James, driving a 1947 Ford log truck belonging to the Williamston Supply Company, stated that the steering rod came out and that before he could open the door and jump out, the truck veered to the left, turned over and landed in a ditch bottom side up. The logs tore loose and rolled and skidded over the tractor and cab, stopping about seventeen yards away. James suffered minor leg injuries and damage to the vehicle was estimated at about \$200, according to Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation.

Thursday evening at 7:00 o'clock, Clarence Earl Highsmith, driving Percy Keel's 1939 Ford, hit and badly hurt a hog on the Prison Camp Road about three miles from the camp. Damage to the car was estimated at \$30. Patrolman Parker, investigating the accident, found the hog so badly hurt he killed it and turned it over to the prison camp when the owner could not be found.

Taking a big Norfolk Southern bus in Plymouth about 2:00 o'clock Friday morning, Robert Henry Smith, 19-year-old white boy, started a joy ride through this county. He hit a tree and crashed through a yard fence just west of Everetts on Highway 64 but did not do enough damage to the machine to stop its operations. He backtracked to Everetts and turned into the Spring Green Road, and traveled about one and one-half miles before he ran off the road, damaged Farmer Vance Bennett's tobacco barn and ditched the bus, causing about \$400 damage to the vehicle, according to Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation.

Number 4 in the wreck series was reported about 6:40 o'clock

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## Speaker Declares The Soil Program Is Facing Dangers

### Wm. Umstead, Candidate For Governor, Against Cutting Soil Payment

"While the farm program may not be perfect, it is now facing great danger," Wm. Umstead, candidate for governor, told the annual meeting of the Martin County Farm Bureau in the Williamston High School auditorium last Friday afternoon. He said there is a strong movement going on right now to cut out the soil conservation feature of the farm program.

"Instead of curtailing the program, we should further develop agriculture," Mr. Umstead said, urging the farmers to maintain a strong organization and continue to carry on.

"If Roosevelt is forgotten on all other counts, he'll live in the minds of farmers for all time for what he did for agriculture," the speaker said. He commended State Commissioner of Agriculture Ballentine for what he has done to fit the State Department into its rightful place in the agriculture of this State, and praised him for his work.

Mr. Umstead said he was in Washington when most of the farm program was formulated, and recognized the value of the work done by the State Farm Bureau's first president, J. E. Winslow. Through organization and the Roosevelt administration, farm credit was arranged, rural electrification came into its own, the farm-tenant purchase act was passed, the Triple A was created and later continued as the Pro-

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## County Girls Are Society Officers

Two Martin County girls were recently elected officers of Phi Omicron, home economics honorary society at East Carolina College, Greenville.

Outstanding scholastic records are a prerequisite to membership, it was announced. Miss Edith Rogerson of Williamston, a recent graduate, is president of the new society, and Miss Ruth Haislip of Oak City, a junior, was made secretary and treasurer.

## Firemen Called Out Twice Here Friday Afternoon

Starting from burning junk in Parker's junk yard on New Street, just off Main, fire threatened several small buildings in the area at 1:00 o'clock last Friday afternoon. Firemen were called there, but no damage was reported.

Firemen were called out a second time about an hour later when a grass fire went out of control and threatened to spread to outbuildings and a large wooded area on the south side of West Main Street beyond the underpass. It was checked before any damage was done.

## Superior Court Opened Special Term Here Today

Observing Easter Monday as a holiday, the Martin County Superior Court opened a two-week special term here this morning for trial of civil cases only.

Soon after his arrival from Dunn, Judge Howard Godwin convened the court and the old divorce mill was thrown into high gear. There are twenty-three divorce actions in the mill waiting to be ground out.

## Call Off Scheduled Band Trip To Windsor

The Williamston High School Band, scheduled to go to Windsor tomorrow, will not make the trip, it was announced today. A drive to organize a band in the neighboring town was to have been launched, but a speaker could not be scheduled and the event was called off, it was learned.

The next trip for the band is scheduled on May 5 when Director Jack Butler takes his musicians to Weldon for a special concert.

## Ninth Annual Fat Stock Show In County Attracts Thousands

### Most Successful One Held In The State This Year

### Griffin Boys Walk Away With Honors; Competi- tion Was Terrific

Under the direction of Assistant Farm Agents Sam Tuten and D. W. Brady, club boys and girls last week-end put on the most successful fat stock show ever held in this county. While the show, the ninth of annual events of its kind, was not as large as some of those held in the past, it was tops in quality and the youthful exhibitors gave the judges a difficult assignment.

The show, limited to the county and only 4-H and FFA members, was the largest of any county show held in the State so far this year, and its prizes and income topped anything reported so far.

"Your club boys and girls have given a splendid account of themselves," Jack Kelly, one of the two judges for the show, declared in commenting on the event. "It is one of the best shows I've attended," Mr. Kelly of the North Carolina Extension Service, said, explaining that the steers graded higher than they did last year. The swine show was described as just about tops. More than 100 hogs were exhibited along with the seventeen beef calves.

The Black Angus moved in for the second time in a row to claim top positions in the beef cattle department, the few mixed breeds holding lower places in the show.

Johnnie Griffin, 12-year-old 4-H club member of Cross Roads who attends school in Everetts, took top honors with his 810-pound Angus calf. Corrone Bryant, Williamston 4-H club member, winner of the top show in last year's show and recently awarded the Angier Duke scholarship, was second in the cattle show with an 805-pound black Angus. Both the grand and reserve champion graded prime. Each of the two top winners received \$10 cash prizes, plus \$5 from A. B. Bass, Edgecombe County farmer who sold the boys the winning entries last year.

In addition to the reserve grand champion, Young Bryant exhibited three other black Angus calves and received an \$8 prize for each along with John Beach of Hamilton, Jerry Hopkins of Farm Life and Marion Griffin of the Robersonville club.

Six club members, Billy Bailey of Robersonville, J. C. Griffin, Jamesville, Calvin Oglesby, Oak City, Jimmy Hopkins, Farm Life, John Andrews, Parmele, and Calvin Oglesby of the Oak City Clubs, exhibited calves rated of good quality and each of them received a \$5 cash prize. The three steers grading commercial brought their owners, Paul Stevenson of Oak City and Murl Griffin and J. C. Griffin of Jamesville, \$5 cash prizes each.

In the swine show, a brother and sister, John E. Griffin and Mary Alice Griffin, of the Robersonville Club, walked away with top honors when their grand champion and reserve champion pigs, one to the pen. Exhibiting the grand champion, Johnny received a \$10 prize, while Miss Mary Alice was awarded an \$8 cash prize for the reserve champion.

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### CONCERT

The East Carolina College 58-piece concert band will appear in a special program in the local high school auditorium Thursday afternoon of this week at 2:30 o'clock. Directed by Herbert Carter, the band includes among its musicians three from Williamston, Miss Harriet Ward, Travis Martin, Jr., and Jack Edwards.

The concert is open to the public.

## Hunger Causing Unrest In Several Foreign Countries

Speaking briefly to the annual meeting of the Martin County Farm Bureau last Friday afternoon, Congressman Herbert Bonner defended this country's foreign policy and went on to say that hunger and starvation are causing unrest, and advanced the belief that the Point 4 program can do more than bullets in heading off communism.

"Our foreign policy is trying to hold back by sending technicians to foreign lands to teach those unfortunate people how to reclaim their soil," Mr. Bonner said, adding that it had not been for the Point 4 program and its purchase of \$90 million worth of tobacco there might be a different story right here. "Tobacco isn't food, to be sure, but it has offered con-

tentment," he said, adding that he had seen the dire poverty on a travel through Greece, Turkey, India and other foreign lands.

He described our foreign policy as being one of humanity, carrying out Christian principles, and at the same time helping us to preserve ourselves.

Warning that any organization should limit its activities to its own field, the congressman declared that soil conservation is the greater part of the farm program, that we are only stewards of the land today. "While the Farm Bureau has a great program, there is internal trouble there," he said, maintaining that some in the national organization don't want the soil conservation program continued.

## Poll Holders Named In County Saturday

### Few Substitutions In Personnel For Handling Election

### Open Registration Books May 3 for Primary Vote May 31

Meeting in the commissioners' room in the courthouse last Saturday morning, the Martin County Board of Elections perfected its organization and named the personnel for handling the coming elections in the county's thirteen precincts.

C. D. Carstarphen of Williamston was re-elected chairman of the board, and Hassell Worsley of Robersonville was named to succeed himself as secretary. Wade Vick of Robersonville is the third member of the board. All were present for the meeting.

Only four changes were made in the precinct personnel. Grady Godard is succeeding Joe Lawrence Coltrain as registrar in Williams Township. W. Jesse Griffin was appointed to succeed J. C. Gurkin as a pollholder in Griffins. Mr. Gurkin resigning to become a candidate for county commissioners from the Griffins-Bear Grass district. Clinton House was named to succeed Allen Osborne as registrar for Robersonville Precinct, and Arthur Brown is succeeding Ernest Bunting as a poll holder in Goose Nest. It is possible that there'll be more changes in the judges of election, but the registrars are being empowered to fill any positions that become vacant.

The elections board encountered the same old trouble of finding enough registered Republicans to serve as members of the precinct. When they could not find one, a good Democrat was called upon to serve.

The following is a list of the precinct officials, the first named being the registrar and the other two, judges of election:

Jamesville: F. C. Stallings, J. Linwood Knowles and Mrs. Annie Mae Lilley.

Williams: Grady Godard, C. L. Daniel and R. J. Hardison.

Griffins: S. Oscar Peel, Stephen Manning and W. Jesse Griffin.

Bear Grass: LeRoy Harrison, Delmus Rogers and W. A. Brown.

Williamston: Wendell Peel, Julian Harrell and R. S. Price, Jr.

Williamston, II: S. Harcum Grimes, Chas. R. Mobley and Jesse T. Price.

Cross Roads: H. M. (Buck) Ayers, W. L. Ausbon and Oscar Ayers.

Robersonville: Clinton House, Tom Roebuck and L. N. Vick.

Gold Point: Harry Roberson, J. W. Taylor and Geo. P. Bullock.

Poplar Point: W. Mayo Hardison, Luther Leggett and Herman

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## Stock Show Sales Highest Reported In State To Date

### Grand Champion Steer Sold For 50¢; Champion Pig For \$25.75

After hitting a low point last year, the annual Martin County Fat Stock Show staged a comeback last week to report the highest sale so far recorded in the State. The exhibitors and sellers were well pleased with the prices received for their prize entries, and they are ready to put on a bigger and even better show next year, according to Assistant County Agent Sam Tuten.

With the prices ranging from \$38 to \$50 per hundred weight, the sale of the beef calves averaged \$40.72, and the swine sale grossed right at 17 cents, or \$16.96 to be exact. The bulk sale was better than one-half cent above the market.

John E. Griffin of the Robersonville Club sold his single grand champion entry to the Dixie Motor Company for \$25.75 per hundred pounds. The reserve champion single entry, exhibited by Mary Alice Griffin sold for \$1 cents a pound to the Williamston Packing Company. Miss Mary Louise Holliday of Jamesville received for her grand champion pen of three, and Eugene Hyman of Oak City was paid \$16.75 per hundred pounds for his reserve champion pen of three. Except for the grand champion pen of one, all the swine purchases were made by the Williamston Packing Company, the main support of the show. Other packers wanted to enter the sale, but the Easter holiday was closing down their plants, and the sale had to overcome the handicap. No complaint was heard when it was reported that the 103 hogs, weighing 22,946 pounds, had sold for \$3,892.04, or an average of \$16.96 per hundred pounds.

Working in advance of the sale, Riley Tew of Roanoke Lockers, Wm. Everett of Dixie Motors and the Williamston Boosters along with others, including several from other towns in the county, moved in to put the sale of steers on top for the State.

The seventeen entries, weighing 12,870 pounds, sold for a total of \$5,241.34, an average of \$40.72 per hundred pounds. The sale averaged from eight to ten cents above the open market, it was reported.

Johnnie Griffin sold his grand champion to Roanoke Lockers and Roanoke Chevrolet Co. for 50 cents a pound or \$405.

Corrone Bryant sold the reserve champion to Roanoke Lockers and Belk-Tyler for 47 cents a pound or a total of \$373.35.

John Beach of Hamilton sold his choice steer to Johnson Mercantile Company of Hamilton for 40 cents a pound or \$312.

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## Add Five Miles To Rural Route

After walking more than two miles during a long period of years for their mail, a number of Williams Township people will have their mail carried to them, beginning tomorrow, Postmaster W. F. Dunn announced today.

Approximately five miles are being added to Rural Free Delivery Route No. 1, handled by Carrier John A. Ward. In making the change, the postal authorities are altering the route to some extent, with the possibility that it will be altered again in time.

Several patrons, sharing service offered by the Williamston and Jamesville offices, will be served by the Jamesville office after today.

The altered route will go as far as Siloam church and turn back to R. J. Hardison's, turning and through Belltown to Dan Moore's corner, turning left there and thence on to new road and then right via the Reasons' to Fairview Church, turning left there and going to Mill Road Fork and then a retrace back to pick up the original route.

Service is being improved for about twenty-five patrons, the postmaster explained.

### FILES

Hugh G. Horton, Williamston attorney, filed with the county board of elections chairman, C. D. Carstarphen, to succeed himself as State Senator from this, the second senatorial district. He was the ninth candidate in this county to officially put his name in the "pot," leaving several political offices literally begging for candidates.

As far as it could be learned, Mr. Horton and Attorney Paul of Washington are the only two who have filed for the district's two senatorial seats.

## Seine Fishing At Jamesville

Delayed for several weeks by high water, seine fishing got under way on a large scale at Jamesville Monday morning. A complete report on the first day operation could not be had immediately, but the net was dipping up as many as seven and eight thousand at a haul. It is estimated the total catch approximated 130,000 for the day.

The catches were limited almost entirely to herring, one report stating that very few rock or perch were taken.

Good fishing is anticipated during the next two or three weeks. Thousands visited Jamesville during the day, it was reported. A fish festival had been considered but plans were dropped when there was doubt if the high waters would recede in time for seine fishing.

## Gets Honorable Mention At Lees-McRae College

Miss Betty Lou Wobblenton of Williamston was one of several freshmen at Lees-McRae receiving honorable mention for her scholastic work for the third quarter recently ended. She averaged B or better on all her subjects, the dean reported.

### ROUND-UP

Despite the increased emphasis on religion, law enforcement officers continued busy here during the past week-end, making about as many arrests as usual. Eleven persons were taken into custody and temporarily held in the county jail. Five were booked for drunkenness, and one each for drunken driving, larceny, disorderly conduct, no operator's license, and investigation.

Three of the eleven were white and ages of the group ranged from 19 to 37 years.