

Seven Thousand To Enter School In This County

Colored Schools To Open Tuesday and the White Schools Wednesday

Vacation days for between 7,000 and 7,500 children will end next week when the Martin County schools open the new term—the colored schools Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock and the white schools Wednesday afternoon at the same hour.

While one or two of the schools will likely report an enrollment increase, the enrollment trend in the white schools is expected to continue downward. A slight increase is likely in the colored school enrollment.

In 1950-51, there were 7,701 children enrolled in all the county schools, including 3,540 white and 4,161 colored. At the beginning of the 1951-52 term there were 7,360 pupils enrolled, including 3,442 in the white and 3,918 in the colored schools.

Officials said yesterday that the plants are about ready to receive the children, but there were obstacles such as a teacher shortage in one white high school, and a bus driver shortage in some of the colored schools. Principal B. F. Sloane said yesterday that he hoped to fill the commercial teacher position before the week-end.

There is a possibility that there will not be enough drivers to man the busses for the colored schools. Several were short yesterday, and difficulty was being experienced in getting applications. Several who had been selected to handle the busses failed to pass the driver tests, it was learned.

In an effort to relieve the bus driver shortage, the board of education is sponsoring a driver education course in the colored high school here. An especially equipped car furnished by the Griffin Motor Company is being lent to the school and a teacher trained for the task. The car has dual controls, and the course will offer practical training as well as oral instructions.

New school plants, costing more than half million dollars will be occupied at Williamston, Oak City and Robersonville for the first time next week. The general contract work has been approved and only a few minor details are to be handled before final acceptance, it was learned.

Several of the teachers in the Williamston schools have already reported for work, but no meetings are scheduled before the early part of next week.

Interrupt Power Service Briefly

There was a 15-minute power service interruption in this area early yesterday morning when work was handled on the short line between Williamston and the 110,000-volt substation recently completed near here.

A booster transformer, used when this section was fed by a line from Tarboro, was removed from the line.

Unless unforeseen obstacles prevent themselves, the interruption should be the last in this area for a long time, power company officials declared.

Cowen Placed On Rules Committee

Mayor Robert H. Cowen has been appointed to the Rules Committee of the North Carolina Young Democrats, and is scheduled to serve at the 1952 State convention to be held in Greensboro next week.

The appointment was announced by William W. Staton, State president of the Young Democrats. The first meeting of the group is to be held September 4.

Local Man Returned Yesterday From Korea

After spending the greater part of eight months in Korea, Lt. Nelson Leggett returned home yesterday. He was an artilleryman, and later an air observer.

Many Are Called But Few Are Chosen For The Draft

Many are being called but mighty few are being chosen for the draft from this county, according to unofficial information gained this week. Out of the thirty-four men called to answer a pre-induction draft call on August 19, only eleven passed the examinations, it was learned. While most of those rejected were unable to pass the required mental tests, quite a few did not measure up physically.

As far as it could be learned eight out of the eleven white men reporting, passed the examination, or about 73 percent. Only three out of twenty-three colored men passed the examination or just

about thirteen percent.

While final induction depends upon the size of the calls in the future, it is possible that few of those reporting for the pre-induction tests last week will be called before December, if then. However, it is pointed out that an increase in the size of the calls could alter the schedule, and just now no one seems to know just when final induction will be placed on the schedule.

Twenty-five registrants are to report for pre-induction on September 15, and four men will be called, to report for final induction on September 26, according to information released this week.

Native Of County Accident Victim

Virgil McKeel, native of this county, was killed in an automobile accident near Whiteville about 10 o'clock last night. His car turned over on a slippery road and he was injured internally, dying a short time later in a Whiteville hospital. He got out of the wrecked car, thumbed a ride to his home, walked in, and later entered another car and went to the hospital.

A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Willis McKeel, he spent most of his early life in this county, farming in his early youth and working as an automobile mechanic before going to Whiteville about seventeen years ago. He operated an automobile agency there and was doing well.

A son was fatally injured in a school bus accident near Williamston about twenty years ago.

Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Elizabeth Allen of this county; one son, Clifton, and five daughters, Estelle, Dorothy, Naomi, Barbara and Willie Ann, all of Whiteville; two sisters, Mrs. Jack Stafford of Baltimore and Mrs. Robert McClaren of Portsmouth; six brothers, Clarence and Clayton McKeel of Williamston, Jasper of Micro, and Willis, Chas. B. and J. D. McKeel, all of Baltimore.

Funeral services will be conducted in the Whiteville Funeral home tomorrow afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. Interment will be in the cemetery there.

Band Parents' Picnic Tuesday

The local Band Parents Association held its annual picnic at the high school here Tuesday evening, the event attracting nearly 200 band pupils and parents. The meal and fellowship were greatly enjoyed on the open field, the group repairing from there to the new band room for a business meeting.

Jessup Harrison succeeds R. L. Coburn as president of the organization, and Hildreth P. Mobley was elected vice president. Mrs. Ernest Carraway was named secretary-treasurer to succeed Mrs. J. D. Page who has ably served in that position for about five years.

Following the business session, Director Jack Butler outlined the plans for the coming year and showed a film of the band majorities. The director expressed his appreciation to those who had supported the band, and declared that he was proud of the new building.

Young Democrats To Meet Tonight

Martin County Young Democrats are meeting in the courthouse this evening at 8:00 o'clock for their annual session, it was announced by Pete Rogers, president of the organization in this county.

The meeting is to elect officers for the coming year and name delegates to the State convention which is to be held in Greensboro next week.

All young Democrats "in good standing" are invited to attend the meeting which will be held in the grand jury room, Mr. Rogers said.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Williamston's annual harvest festival, sponsored by the Boosters, will be held during the week of October 20, it was announced this week by Secretary Alford Sweatt.

Plans are being rapidly advanced for enlarging the event this year, Mr. Sweatt said, and another record attendance is expected.

Small Increase In Milk Prices Here

Following action taken throughout the country and in keeping with Office of Price Stabilization regulations, local milk prices will advance on the basis of one cent a quart, effective September 1, according to unofficial but reliable information gained here today.

Coming as a result of the drought that curtailed feed supplies and lowered milk production, the increase is scheduled almost in its entirety to go to the producer. It was pointed out that producers in this county were faced with the possibility of going out of business. The increase of approximately 35 cents per hundred weight allowed by OPS will enable the producers to "hang on" a while longer, at least.

The one-cent price increase will be prorated according to quantity; that is, quarts will sell for a penny more, pints, one-half cent, and half-pints, a quarter of a cent.

The local dairy plant had taken every possible step to forestall the increase, but the increase was found to be almost imperative if the supply of milk was to be maintained, it was explained.

Education Board To Meet Friday

Meeting in special session here tomorrow evening at 8:00 o'clock the Martin County Board of Education members will handle a few routine matters and discuss a special request for a special schedule in some of the schools during the early part of the term opening next week.

It has been requested that some of the colored schools be allowed to operate on the special marketing season is farther advanced and until after peanuts are dug and cotton is picked. It is proposed to start daily schedule at 8:00 o'clock and continue through the lunch period. Permission for adopting the schedule is being delayed pending action by the education board tomorrow evening.

It is understood that the schedule is being proposed for those schools mainly in the upper part of the county and for the colored pupils only.

District Health Meeting In Washington Yesterday

The School of Public Health of the University of North Carolina held a district health meeting in Washington yesterday when several vital health topics were discussed by recognized authorities. Messrs. John W. Williams, J. Sam Getsinger, J. C. Manning and Dr. J. M. Kilpatrick attended the sessions from this county.

Williamston's town commissioners are postponing their regular meeting until September 8.

Clubs Make Plans For Fair During November 3 Week

Approximately \$1,000 In Premiums Will Be Offered

Preliminary plans are well advanced for holding a fair in the Carolina Warehouse here during the week of November 3. Fletcher Thomas, a member of the sponsoring clubs committee announced yesterday.

Planned by the Williamston Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, the event has a country-wide appeal and will be open to contestants from all over the county it was explained. Approximately \$1,000 in premiums are to be offered, the chairman explained.

Ruling out the gambling devices, the sponsors propose to contract for a number of rides and amusements for the children, but special emphasis is to be placed on both commercial and farm-home exhibits, it was pointed out.

In addition to the exhibits, including all types, the fair sponsors plan to underwrite special attractions which will be staged on the inside of the warehouse each night during the week. "We will particularly stress home talent events which will supplement the over-all program," Mr. Thomas explained.

While the fair is not being promoted as a money-making venture, the sponsors are hopeful the revenue will offset all expenses, including the cash premiums, and provide at least a small amount for the Boy Scout fund. Materials are being placed on the lot, corner of Smithwick and Railroad Streets, for a Boy Scout Hut and community building, and the club members are renewing their efforts to provide sufficient funds for financing the project.

Man Charged With Larceny Of Truck

Charged with the larceny of a truck from the Anderson Milling Company in Washington last week, Charlie Barnes, 38-year-old Negro, was arrested near Hassell in this county Tuesday evening by Cpl. M. C. Byrum and Officer Chas. R. Moore. The truck was recovered a few days after it was stolen.

Barnes, admitting the larceny of the truck, denied the theft of \$50 in cash from the Whitley home where he was visiting on Roanoke Avenue here last week. He waived a hearing, and is to go into court on the money charge Saturday.

BIG FIGHT

After feasting on the tobacco crop to the greatest extent ever known in this county, worms this week were battling each other for the few remaining leaves, according to County Farm Agent T. B. Brandon.

While checking up on the army worm damage, the agent went into a tobacco patch and saw two large worms fighting for the rights to a last leaf on the stalk.

Soy Bean Fields In County Attacked By Army Worms

After battling and losing heavily against the elements, quite a few Martin County farmers are now warring on the fall army worm and the old army worm himself.

From a point on the Asa Moore farm in Williams Township across the county to the Poplar section, the worm is rapidly eating his way through peanut and soy bean fields, occasionally nibbling on a bit of tender grass and the foliage of a few other crops. So far, according to Farm Agents T. B. Brandon and Sam Tuten, the damage has been limited to about ten percent, but the agents frankly admit they cannot tell if the tempo of the march will be stepped up or whether it will subside.

The army worm has been reported in the fields of Farmers Asa Moore, Opehus Price, Dillon Peel, Willis Williams, Sam Taylor, J. A. White, Dick Slade and others. Farmer Dick Slade, using DDT dust, was said to have slayed the worms by the tens of thousands. A few farmers said they planned to just let the worms go their way unmolested.

Unable To Raise Bond In Forgery Case This Week

Detailed Charges Awaited In Lloyd Case from The Boston Police

Unable to raise bond in the sum of \$1,000, James Lloyd, New York Negro, charged with aiding and abetting forgery, and Willie Andrew Russell, Georgia Negro, charged with forgery, were returned to the jail in this county this week following a preliminary hearing held before Justice Chas. R. Mobley.

Russell, preparing an \$85 check and signing Theo (Buster) Brown's name to it, admitted his part in the case, and Lloyd admitted cashing the check here last Saturday. Only the forgery charge is staring Russell in the face, but Lloyd is believed to have left a crime record across the country. He admits having stolen an automobile in Boston and abandoning it in New York. He also admits having stolen Cadillac in New York along with a sum of money. The automobile was returned to a New York finance company here late Tuesday.

Lloyd said he was not worrying about the forgery and theft charges, but it was apparent at the hearing that he is troubled about a rape charge allegedly pending in Boston. A warrant has been drawn in Boston, charging rape, but identity in the case has not yet been definitely established, according to Cpl. M. C. Byrum, of the highway patrol. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is handling the auto theft cases, but it could not be learned immediately if the Boston authorities would follow up the rape charge.

Russell was working with a Georgia logging contractor in this county, and Lloyd, having met him in another part of the country, came down from New York to visit him. They were rooming together when the forgery was planned, it was learned at the hearing before Justice Mobley.

Will Argue Cases In Supreme Court

The Jamesville election case and the one involving the railroad underpass on Williamston's West Main Street will be argued before the North Carolina State Supreme Court in Raleigh next Tuesday morning.

Both cases have attracted much attention and several attorneys will offer argument before the high court.

In the election case, the plaintiffs, A. Corey and others, received an adverse decision and they decided to carry the case to the Supreme Court.

In the town's suit against the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company and the North Carolina State Highway Commission, Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, the same jurist who handed down the adverse ruling in the election case, rendered a split decision, freeing the railroad company and holding the highway commission responsible for correcting the existing hazard on the town's main street.

Attorneys Elbert S. Peel, Chas. H. Manning and Robert H. Cowen will join other attorneys from various parts of the State in arguing the cases before the court.

Increase In Tobacco Sales Reported Here

LIMITED

Next Monday, Labor Day, will be observed here as a limited holiday. In accordance with a schedule adopted by business firms early in the year, stores and local offices will remain open.

Both banks here will be closed for the day. However, the day will be observed as a holiday by the post office, federal and state offices and a few other firms, it was announced. The town commissioners are delaying their regular meeting until September 8.

Auto Death Rate Shows Gain First Half Of The Year

Highway Accident Toll Is Placed At 104 Daily In The Nation

Chicago.—Automobiles are killing people at the rate of about 104 per day on the nation's streets and highways.

Last year, the traffic death toll was 37,300, the National Safety Council reports. During the first six months this year, 16,820 fatalities were recorded, a 3 per cent increase over the half-year toll of 1951.

Just how good, or bad, is the nation's traffic safety record? What's wrong? What should be done? Can matters be improved?

Actually, traffic accidents account for about one-fortieth of deaths from all causes throughout the nation. The comparison in 1950 was 35,000 traffic deaths, 1,456,000 deaths from all causes. Still, the traffic toll which is likely to reach 38,000 this year is impressive. It is the equivalent in human lives to the population of a fairly large city.

But last year's 37,300 toll is lower than those of 1936 when 38,089 fatalities were reported; in 1937 when the count was 39,643, and in 1941 when the all-time mark of 39,969 was set.

In 1941, the Safety Council says, there were 34,383,000 vehicles in operation. They were driven 33 billion 396 million miles.

The 1951 toll was actually 2,669 lower than that for 1941 although the number of vehicles in operation had jumped to 52,238,000 and the total mileage driven was 487 billion 550 million.

Last year's traffic death rate was 25.1 per 100,000 population, compared with a rate of 30 deaths per 100,000 in 1941.

The figures indicate that things could be much worse. Safety officials say the highway slaughter would be terrific if it were not for the efforts of hundreds of specialists in engineering, education and law enforcement.

They add that the traffic death toll could still be cut dramatically if the public would cooperate to promote safe road conditions.

Increased highway safety is the aim of the President's Highway Safety Conference composed of some 2,600 experts and officials from all parts of the nation. The conference has been working for safety since 1946. The Council of State Governments, a cooperative agency of officials from the 48 States, said in reporting on a 1950 study that "the highway fatality record continues to be a national

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Raleigh Attorney Speaks To Local Rotary Club

L. H. Davis, Raleigh attorney, addressed the regular meeting of the Rotary Club in the Methodist Church building here Tuesday noon.

CONTINUES ILL

Wm. M. Harrison, member of the county board of commissioners, continues ill in a Rocky Mount hospital. His condition was reported improved today, but it could not be learned when he'll return home.

Band Fund Drive Opens Here Next Monday for Week

Will Need At Least As Much This Year As Last To Keep Program Going

Chairman D. V. Clayton and his co-workers are shaping up plans this week-end for the annual Band Fund Drive of the Williamston Band Parents Club to supply the band organization with the cash needed to maintain its present equipment, add new uniforms as needed, purchase sheet music, provide transportation and pay for new instruments purchased in the spring this year because they would not have been available in the fall.

The fund drive is slated to start next week and run for one week. Because of the opening of schools, the necessity of doing considerable work in the new band room and the fact that uniforms for the coming year have not been definitely assigned, there will be no tag day sales this year. Director Jack Butler said last night. Although the money usually raised in this manner is needed, Director Butler said he felt it was of even more importance to have the youngsters get their year's work at school started off properly.

As has been done in years past, the directors of the band organization will meet at the close of the drive to apportion the money raised to the various funds—general expense, which includes music and minor equipment, transportation so that the band can continue to travel first class, uniform fund and implement fund.

Last year some \$400.00 was set aside for the winter coats, the annual spring concert added another \$200.00 and the band parents themselves raised the balance among their members to finish paying for the coats. It is likely that more of these will be needed from year to year, however, as is the case with uniforms. Like the uniforms, the heavy coats will remain with the band from year to year as more of an investment than an expenditure.

The instrument fund is in the red now because manufacturers advised Director Butler this spring that there was little chance of the instruments he was anxious to acquire being available in the fall. They agreed to wait until fall for their money and so he purchased the instruments and the band has put them to good use. Other instruments are to be added this fall as they and the

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Joint Meeting On Friday Evening

The Martin County Farm Bureau and sponsors of CROP, (Christian Rural Overseas Program), will hold a joint meeting in the courthouse here Friday evening at 8:00 o'clock.

The meeting, planned to last only a brief time, will discuss arrangements for launching the annual Farm Bureau membership drive in this county, and hear the Rev. Carl R. Key, Durham minister, discuss the Korean relief program. President Chas. I. Deniel, president of the county Farm Bureau, will outline the plans for the membership drive, and the Durham minister will show a timely moving picture in connection with the CROP program.

An invitation is being extended the general public to attend the joint meeting by Farmer Mayo Harrison, chairman of the CROP program in the county.

County Board To Meet On Monday

Next Monday, Labor Day, will not be observed as a holiday by the Martin County Commissioners, it was announced today. However, federal and state offices and a few other business establishments, including the banks, will be closed here.

As far as it could be learned the county board has little new business on its calendar for discussion. Routine business will be handled and a jury for the special term of the October term of the superior court is to be drawn.

Next Monday Will Be Observed As A Holiday In Belt

Sales Expected To Pass The Million-Pound Mark Here This Week

Williamston's tobacco market, after marking time for the most part since the block was cleared last Friday is expecting a sizable increase in sales tomorrow with full sales in prospect for next Tuesday. Poundage dropped to a low for the season Tuesday when only 59,634 pounds were sold for a 48-cent average. The poundage almost doubled that figure yesterday and the offerings were even larger today. It is fairly evident that the sales will push on toward the one million-pound mark by closing time tomorrow afternoon.

Up until this morning, the market had sold 679,138 pounds for an average slightly below 50 cents, or \$48.71 to be exact.

During the first five marketing days last year when the harvest was completed in its entirety and marketing preparations were much further advanced, the market here sold 983,904 pounds for \$492,095, an average of \$50 per hundred. Considering the late harvest and the quality of the tobacco, the market is holding its own against the early 1951 record. However, the good tobacco that was sold last year is not in prospect this season, and the season, admittedly, does not look too bright or encouraging.

A few tips were offered this week and for the most part the sales have been up to expectations. Farmer Paul Williams, pulling a small barn of sucker leaves, declared he did all right with his sale. Few barns of tips sold for less than a 50-cent average.

The crux of the price situation is found in the inferior quality of the lugs. Offered in various colors, particularly brownish-black, these types are almost without friends. While some of them are actually below the grading system, the Stabilization Cooperative is in there propping the prices. Were it not for stabilization this year, farmers would, in all probability, be reminded of those days that were not to pleasant in times gone by.

Good tobacco are selling all right, and the companies seem to be anxious for them, paying right on up to \$70 and \$71 per hundred for them.

There'll be no sales on the local market next Monday when the entire belt observes Labor Day as a holiday.

Contract Is Let For Highway 17

A contract for relocating a portion of U. S. Highway 17 and widening the route from a point just beyond the Roanoke River fill to Windsor has been let to Dickerson, Inc., Monroe contractors. The project is to cost \$367,086.30. The bridge contract was let to the Pyramid Construction Company of Wilmington a short time ago. The road is to be widened to 22 feet.

Route 17 has just about been rebuilt from Windsor to the Chowan River bridge. Work on the widening and rebuilding of the Chowan bridge continues to drag with a completion date tentatively set for the latter part of next year.

Polio Victim In Norfolk Hospital

Taken ill while visiting in the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Mary Bonner Gurganus, here early this week, Little Miss Jean Waters, five, was removed immediately to a Norfolk hospital for treatment of what appears to be a light case of polio.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Waters of Windsor. No other cases of polio have been reported in this county in recent months.