

Gloomy Outlook For Virginia Type Nuts

Farm Bureau In County Pledges Program Support

Additional Director Named At Special Meeting Thursday Night

With a gloomy outlook facing them, Martin County farmers, meeting in the courthouse last Thursday night, literally rolled up their sleeves, pledged financial support and agreed to get out and work to save the peanut program and get behind a program designed to relieve and possibly solve some of the problems confronting the North Carolina-Virginia goob-

er. The Farm Bureau group agreed to advance \$175 to help get the work started without further delay, and named an additional director for the newly organized North Carolina Peanut Growers Association. Farmer C. L. Daniel was named to join Farmer Sidney Mallory as a member of the association's board of directors from this county. It was pointed out that Martin County with nearly 18,000 peanut acres, was entitled to two directors, that those counties with limited acreages should have their representative allotted on an acreage ratio basis.

Field Representative William Little of the State Farm Bureau addressed the meeting at length, explaining the organization of the association, and listing its tentative program of action. Patterned after the Tobacco Associates, Inc., the new peanut organization, drawing its support from a per acre assessment, the amount to be determined, would center its attention on production, quality, quantity, grading and marketing, research and general promotion while at the same time maintaining a legislative "watch dog" in Washington.

Mr. Little said that a special law was passed by the North Carolina State Legislature last week, empowering the growers to carry out a program, including a referendum to be held as soon as practicable. Plans for the referendum and the exact amount of the assessment, possibly a penny a bag, will be determined and announced shortly.

Two problems are now facing the peanut grower, and one of them is a major one, according to unofficial information, reaching here. The big problem is the price differential existing between the Virginia type and the types grown farther south and in the Southwest. Storage facilities constitute a problem in some counties, but not necessarily in Martin County, it was pointed out. The Farm Bureau, it was recalled, was responsible for the present peanut program, but leaders are now convinced that the organization now needs help if the program is to be maintained.

The Southeast and other sections are producing peanuts cheaper than farmers can produce them in this section where a price

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SERIOUS

A serious problem was presented to the local town commissioners in regular session yesterday afternoon when anxious parents pointed out that the promiscuous firing of rifles was endangering the lives of children and others in several parts of the town. Favoring drastic action if necessary, the board first directed an appeal to parents to check the practice immediately. Police are being notified to conduct thorough investigations with the avowed intention of having enforced the law, ruling out the shooting of firearms inside the town limits.

It was reported that a train conductor's cap had been shot off his head and that bullets had whizzed by the heads of several persons in recent weeks.

PRESIDENT



Recently elected, Mr. W. Marvin Baker, local oil distributor, last night assumed his duties as president of the Williamston Boosters, Inc. He succeeds R. Edwin Peele who continues in the service of the organization as vice president and director.

County Board In Regular Meeting Monday Morning

Receive Request for \$1000 Appropriation For Negro Library

Meeting in regular session Monday, the Martin County Commissioners entered comparatively few accomplished acts in the record, but they got a preliminary glimpse at the first departmental budget and went on to hear two or three petitions and delegations in addition to handling routine duties. No action was taken on the budget proposal submitted by the welfare department. It will be considered at a future meeting, it was learned.

A delegation, headed by W. C. Chance, appeared before the board and asked a \$1,000 appropriation to help finance a county library for colored citizens, the unit to be located in Williamston. The request will be considered by the commissioners when they start work on the 1953-54 fiscal year budget sometime next month. The delegation submitted a proposed budget of its own, showing expected additional revenue from the town of Williamston in the sum of \$1,000 and a third \$1,000 from other sources.

The library body, composed of W. C. Chance, chairman, W. C. Slade, Maude W. Morris, Sam Faulk, Cleopatra Tyner, Edna B. Andrews, secretary, and Mattie P. Ormond and Frank D. Cherry, cops., explained that \$1,500 would be spent for books, \$600 for librarians, \$1595 for building, and about \$300 for miscellaneous items, including insurance.

Road petitions were received for improvements on one-quarter mile of road running off the Bear Grass-Stokes Highway near the Rose of Sharon Church to the J. Arthur Peel home place, serving two homes and nine people; and three-quarters of a mile of road in Goose Nest Township, connecting 125 with the Pearl Bryant farm.

In a joint meeting with the Williamston town commissioners, the county board approved a proposed change in the site for the National Guard armory on Highway 64. Engineer Spruill explained that the footage would be reduced on Highway 64 and increased on the side facing the proposed belt line around the town.

Carey Garland Bunting of Oak City was appointed constable of Goose Nest Township for a two-year term.

All members of the board were present, including Chairman John H. Edwards, C. C. Martin, H. L. Roebuck, J. C. Gurkin and Henry S. Johnson.

With little business on their calendar, the members enjoyed the day, but they are too happy over the budget work coming up.

Series Of Wrecks On Streets-Roads In Past Few Days

Three Persons Hurt Slightly In Seven Motor Vehicle Accidents

Three persons were slightly injured but only one received hospital treatments as a result of seven motor vehicle accidents on streets and highways in this county during the past few days. In addition to the accidents in this county, county people were involved in a \$1,000 wreck about five miles north of Washington Highway 17 last Saturday morning. Miss Mary Davenport suffered painful chest injuries but was believed not badly hurt when a Kaiser car driven by Billy Ray McKeel turned over about 10:00 o'clock Saturday. McKeel and another companion, Wayne Pate, were not injured. The group had started to Pamlico Beach but turned back when they had car trouble. Miss Davenport was released from a local hospital following treatment.

The first in the series of accidents in this county was reported Friday evening at 7:00 o'clock when Mrs. Norma Lee Shelton, George Reynolds Hotel hostess, lost control and drove her 1936 Chevrolet into the side of Samuel Zemon's store. Rufus Stark, hotel employee, suffered minor head injuries when he was thrown into the windshield, and was removed to a local hospital for treatment. Damage to the car was estimated at \$80 by Officers Tom Chesson and Arthur Perry following their investigation.

A few of those attending the Williamston High School junior-senior banquet and dance apparently found it difficult to get home. Leaving the school event, Louis Mervin Bonds, after having been up most of the night before, returned to Williamston from a wiener roast at Whitchard's Beach. He had left his date and was traveling out Washington Street to his home when he dropped off to sleep and ran into a utility pole at the corner of Pearl and Washington Streets. Alone at the time, Bonds suffered minor leg injuries. Investigating the accident, Officers Perry and Chesson estimate the damage to the 1950 Chevrolet at \$400.

Driving a 1947 Chevrolet truck belonging to the Martin Feed Mills, Herman Lilley lost control when the wheels locked and the machine turned bottom side up on the McCaskey Road about three miles from Williamston. Lilley was not hurt and damage to the truck was estimated at

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Officers Elected By Jaycees Here

At a heated political meeting of the local Jaycees last Friday night in the Woman's Club officers were elected for the coming year. What was expected to be a normal and routine election of officers turned out to be a very spirited meeting. Proponents of candidates for the various offices decorated the hall with campaign posters, and nominating speeches, which have been dormant for years, were put forth in the old fashion. After many talks had ceased and the noise of the election had subsided, Exum L. Ward Jr. had become the first man to ever be elected to the Presidency for the second time, the first time being five years ago.

E. S. "Junie" Peel Jr. became the running mate of Exum and was elected first vice president. The other officers are as follows: Second vice president, Harvey Baggett; secretary, Sidney Christian; state director, Reuben Williams; Sergeant-at-Arms, "Chief" Mangum. J. D. Baldray was unanimously re-elected treasurer. Edgar J. Gurganus, Bernard Harrison, Pete Austin, George Corey, Cecil Lilley and Dick Bender constitute the new board of directors.

The Jaycees are to hold their Ninth Annual Ladies' and Installation night tomorrow in the Woman's Club at 7:15. Following the dinner, and beginning at 9:15 p. m., their dance will be held in the High school gym. All members of the other civic clubs and their guests are cordially invited to attend.

Roosters Elect Officers At Meet Here Last Thursday

W. Marvin Baker, local oil distributor and civic leader, was elected president of the Williamston Boosters, Inc., at a meeting of the board of directors held in the Watts Theater building last Thursday evening.

He succeeds R. Edwin Peele who automatically takes over the duties of vice president and director. Leman Barnhill was re-elected treasurer for the fifth consecutive year. The new president entered upon his new duties last evening. Directors include Leman Barnhill and Urbin Rogers for indefinite terms as representatives of the tobacco warehouses; W. M. Baker, John Henry Edwards, Wheeler M. Manning and R. Ed-

Boosters Hear Talk By State Treasurer

Business Leaders Challenged By Brandon Hodges

Annual Meeting of Local Boosters Well Attended Last Evening

Brandon Hodges, North Carolina's wide awake treasurer, flung out a challenge to the business leaders of this community at the annual meeting of the Williamston Boosters held in the Woman's Club last evening when he declared they were responsible for the future of the town and community.

The event, attracting a large majority of the membership and quite a few special guests, marked the passing of the organization's executive director, Al Sweett, and the surrender of the presidency of R. Edwin Peele to W. Marvin Baker. In a few brief remarks, Mr. Sweett expressed his appreciation for the support accorded him during his four year stay here, explaining that while there had been difficult problems, he had enjoyed his stay in Williamston. Mr. Peele, presiding over the meeting, turned the gavel over to the new president, and he with Mr. Sweett pleaded to the membership for continued support of the organization, declaring that the foundation had been laid for a progressive march.

In his meaningful talk to the group, Treasurer Hodges briefly reviewed the material progress of North Carolina, declaring that he was proud of its record, but that more was to be accomplished. "In 1939 there were 3,225 manufacturing plants in the State employing 270,000 persons and producing goods valued at a billion and 400 million dollars," Mr. Hodges said. In 1951, according to the speaker there were 8,272 manufacturing units, employing 425,000 persons and producing goods valued at six billion and 172 million dollars. While inflation boosted the size of the figure, most of the gain could be traced to an expanded industry.

Mr. Hodges went on to explain that the farm income in 1939 was only \$220 million, that in 1951 it was nearly a billion dollars. The per capita income jumped from a figure less than \$300 in 1939 to \$1,052 in 1951, "but our State ranks 44th in the list of forty-eight states," he said, adding that the average weekly payroll is now \$47.67, placing this State 47th in rank. Yet the recent legislature

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LIGHT VOTE

A light vote was in the making about noon today in the several municipal elections in this county. As far as it could be learned, the electorate in each town is abiding by the primary or convention nominees. Shortly before noon today fewer than thirty voters had visited the polls here in the town hall, and most of them were called in by the poll holders.

Brief Summary Of Activities In The State's Assembly

Financial Responsibility Law Passed For Operators Motor Vehicles

(Note: This is the sixteenth and last of a series of weekly summaries prepared by the legislative staff of the Institute of Government on the work of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1953. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.) In remarkably orderly fashion, a group of legislators brought the business of the 1953 General Assembly to a close at 9:00 p. m. on Thursday, April 30. Of 1825 bills and resolutions introduced, 1,340 bills and 45 resolutions were enacted into law. Though the margin is small the 1953 record shows more laws and fewer introductions than in each of the last two sessions.

While the lawmakers built up a deserved reputation for hard work in a longer-than-usual session and acted favorably upon a majority of Governor Umstead's legislative proposals, they also left some major issues for the 1955 legislature. Already forecast as principal problems to be faced in 1955 are revision of the tax structure and judicial and legislative redistricting.

Appropriations and Finance With approval of about \$1.8 million for expenditure on varied projects not included in the biennial appropriations bill, the General Assembly left Raleigh having appropriated a record sum

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Music Festival At High School Here Friday Evening

Miss Mary Wallace Foy And Pupils To Show Results Of Year's Work

The Music Department of the Williamston High School will hold its Spring Festival on Friday, May 8th, at 8:00 p. m. The program, under the direction of Miss Mary Wallace Foy, will consist of things the students have had in their class work throughout the school year. Featured on the program will be five numbers by the High School Mixed Chorus—To A Moon Goddess, Oh the Days of the Kerry Dancing, Let's Dance (a paraphrase on chop-sticks), Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley, and Oklahoma. The chorus received an excellent rating in the district contest and five of its members participated in the state festival in Greensboro.

The three sixth grades, combined into a chorus, will present Praise and Thanks, two American folk songs, "Listen to the Mocking-bird, The Gum Tree Canoe, and a Czechoslovakian folk song, Ah, Lovely Meadows. Another attraction of the program will be folk dances by the first through the fifth grades, consisting of the Danish Dance of Greeting, Little Playmate Dance with Me, from "Hansel and Gretel," the German Schattische, the Virginia Reel and the Patty Cake Polka. Also, the first grade rhythm band under the direction of the four first grade teachers, Miss Talton, Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Carstarphen, will present several numbers.

LITTLE LEAGUE CALL

Mayor Robert H. Cowen, as head of the Little League organization here, today issued a call for all boys who are interested in participating in Little League play this year to report at the Grammar School grounds in Williamston at 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon.

Boys who are nine years of age and who have not reached or will not reach 13 years of age on or before August 1 are eligible for play this summer.

Mayor Cowen will explain the requirements at the meeting Thursday and those with any question about their eligibility should come out anyway.

Discuss Bond Issue For Street Paving

Town Officials In Session Yesterday With County Board

Varied Problems Discussed At Meeting Held In The County Courthouse

After approving in a joint session with the county board, a change in the shape of the National Guard site here on the Jamesville Road to accommodate the proposed highway belt line around the town, Williamston's board of commissioners yesterday afternoon held their seats in the county commissioners' room in the courthouse and discussed a varied program of perplexing problems.

The lowly mosquito came in to sting the board members who were assured that a spraying program had been started a short time ago, and that the activities will be doubled. It was explained that frequent rains had washed away the DDT repeatedly, and that weather conditions had invited the greatest siege of mosquitoes seen and felt here in years. Full-time sprayers are now employed, but it was pointed out that owners could help turn the pests back by cleaning up their properties.

Receiving many complaints about loose papers on the streets, the commissioners are asking the police and fire department to appeal to store and office managers to lend a helping hand. The dumping of waste papers in the back lots is to be ruled out even if court action is necessary to support the order, it was intimated.

In addition to inviting mosquitoes, recent rains have caused a baffling problem for the street department workers who have been busy with a \$13,000 drainage project. It was explained a baffling problem for the properly maintain the thirteen miles of dirt streets, that considerable time is spent hauling in dirt to replace that washed away.

The drainage project, centered in that territory between Elm and Sycamore Streets, is nearing completion, and curb and gutters are now being placed on Sycamore Street. With about \$17,000 left in the Powell Bill street fund, the commissioners plan to go ahead with curbing and guttering on Elm Street, and then start working on a backlog of petitions for curbing on various streets all over town. The fund is inadequate even for a fraction of the requests, not to mention street paving.

It was at that point that a bond issue was mentioned. The need for an issue was recognized, but the bond plan was not discussed at length. It was suggested that the paving program could be materially expanded and more rapidly if the property owners would advance their assessments in cash.

Discussing with highway officials the problem of locating a sidewalk on North Houghton Street, the board was advised that the walk should be placed about 27 feet from the center of the road near the Pentecostal Holiness Church, meaning that hundreds of loads of dirt will be needed to build it there.

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INDIRECT REPORT

Re-elect Oak City School Principals

In a meeting held last week, the newly appointed committee for the Oak City School district re-elected B. F. Sloan as principal of the white schools there. It will be the school man's fifth term there.

Turner K. Slade was re-elected principal of the Negro high school there, it was announced by the committee.

A few changes are anticipated in the faculty personnel for the coming term, it was learned. A second meeting is to be held shortly by the committee.

S/Sgt. Martel Hardy, son of Mrs. A. L. Hardy of RFD 3, Williamston, is still alive in a Chinese prisoner of war camp, according to information received by his mother last week-end.

A returning prisoner of war whose name could not be learned, advised Army Intelligence that he left Sgt. Hardy in Prison Camp No. 2 somewhere in China. The report was relayed to the young man's mother by army authorities in a telegram last Friday.

It is the first information Mrs. Hardy has had from her son since she received a letter last Thanksgiving written the latter part of August.



Alford Sweatt, managing director of the Williamston Boosters, Inc., has tendered his resignation to accept a position with the Rocky Mount Merchants Association. He is to enter upon his new duties the first of June.