

County Board In A Short Meeting Monday Morning

Roads and Routine Business Handled Before Early Adjournment

Other than routine matters, the Martin County Commissioners had comparatively little business on their agenda for discussion at their regular meeting Monday. The calendar was cleared before lunch. All members of the board, Messrs. C. C. Martin of Jamesville, J. C. Gurkin of Griffins, J. H. Edwards of Williamston, Herbert L. Roebuck of Cross Roads and Henry S. Johnson of Hamilton, were present.

Hearing petitions from citizens, the board recommended several road projects in the county. Two roads were recommended as neighborhood projects, including three-tenths of a mile in Griffins Township, running from a point near Elmo Lilley's residence via Mrs. Marina Harris' and George Revels back to the Smithwick Creek road; and a road in Goose Nest Township, running from a point near the John L. Cherry's farm on the old Hobgood road three-quarters of a mile to the residence of Pearl Bryant. The road serves two families.

The board also recommended for widening and stabilization two roads, one in Griffins and the other in Bear Grass. The Griffins Township road runs from a point near E. H. Manning's residence, easterly 1.7 miles to the Williams-Farm Life road. The one in Bear Grass runs eight-tenths of a mile from Rogers' community store to Bear Grass road near Charlie Brown's.

In his report to the commissioners, Tax Collector M. L. Peel said that \$70,393.06 was due on the \$408,077.83 tax levy for 1953. There's a balance of \$16,279.63 due on the \$395,067.90 levy for 1952. All but \$9,709.32 has been collected on the \$372,688.88 levy for 1951, and there's a balance due of \$5,414.92 on the \$337,392.79 levy for 1950.

In their reports, Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger and Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne submitted sizeable income for the month of January to the county treasury. Clerk of court Wynne reported \$3,080.15 in recorder's court income, including \$1,800 in fines and the remainder in costs. Miscellaneous income, traceable to filing various papers, added \$435.89 to the total. The register of deeds' office had one of its biggest months in January when its income added up to \$860.90. The issuance of various types of certificates.

(Continued on Page Eight)

Hamilton Legion To Burn Mortgage

A special meeting of the Hamilton American Legion members will be held at the Legion Hut there Thursday night, February 4, at 7:00 o'clock.

Frank Everett, a member of the Legion, said yesterday the occasion would be a big one for all the notes and outstanding obligations of the Hamilton unit would be burned at this meeting. "The Hut cost us over \$5,000. It has been somewhat of a struggle to meet and finally pay off this indebtedness and nothing will give us more pleasure than to see these notes go up in smoke," he said.

All members and their wives, all ex-members and their escorts are urged and invited to attend the meeting. A dinner will be served at 7:00 o'clock. Following the dinner a prominent speaker will address the members and guests.

PLAN DRIVE

Meeting with Mrs. Lucille Cowen, executive secretary of the Martin County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and volunteers, Fund Drive Chairman Hugh M. Martin, a few days ago, mapped plans for the annual Red Cross fund drive in the five townships comprising the chapter. Detailed plans for the drive will be announced within the next few days, Mr. Martin said. The campaign is scheduled to get under way the first of March.

To Interview County High School Pupils February 8

Representatives from about fifteen colleges and hospital nursing schools are to interview all high school seniors in the county at an all-day meeting in the Williamston High School next Monday, it was announced by the county superintendent of schools this week. All the major institutions and several secondary colleges are planning to send representatives to the county for the meeting, it was announced.

During the morning session, beginning about 9:30 o'clock, the college representatives will review the background, opportunities, scholarships and other features of their respective institutions. The morning meeting will be followed by a luncheon in the high school cafeteria.

That afternoon those students planning to enter college will be interviewed by the college representatives. While the college representatives are holding their interviews, those students who do not plan to attend college will hear various professional men discuss their vocations and point out the opportunities and problems found in their respective vocations. A detailed program for the one-day meeting is being prepared and possibly will be announced later this week.

HEARING

A public hearing will be held in the county courthouse here Thursday evening of this week when a representative of the State League of Municipalities will discuss the proposed zoning plan for the town.

The zoning commission, headed by W. T. Martin, has made a study of the plan which will be submitted to the citizens of the town for approval, rejection in its entirety or alteration.

The meeting will be held at 8:15 o'clock, and the public is invited.

Four Accidents On County Roads

No one was reported badly hurt but property damage is believed to have exceeded \$1,000 in four accidents on the highways in this county last week-end.

Dennis Beach escaped unhurt last Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock when his 1951 Oldsmobile went out of control in a curve on the Price road not far from Williamston and turned over. Damage to the machine was estimated at \$200.

Three hours later, Dallas Wynne, driving Robert Cowin's 1951 Ford, lost control of the machine in a curve on the Cowin Road in Bear Grass Township. After skidding about 150 feet the car turned over, coming to a stop on its wheels. No one was injured. Damage to the car was estimated at \$600.

Last Friday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock a 1951 Jeep driven by William Gratt and a laundry truck driven by Ray Wynne crashed on a dirt road about a mile from Sweet Home Church in Bear Grass Township. The Jeep was making a left turn into a driveway just as the truck was making ready to pass. No one was hurt and damage to the truck was estimated at \$100. No damage was reported to the other vehicle.

Driving on N. C. Highway 44 about three miles out of Oak City last Saturday night, Richard Jones struck and killed a 250-pound yearling when the animal darted into the road. Damage to Jones' 1950 Ford was estimated at \$75.

Reports Money Found Long Ago

Nearly four years ago—March, 1950, to be exact—J. J. Whitaker of 105 McCaskey Road, Williamston, was picking up money right and left, and, to this day, has never been able to locate the owners. Last Saturday he explained he was tired holding the money and wanted to make one last attempt to return it.

In March, 1950, Mr. Whitaker said he was standing on the corner of Washington and Main streets when a young soldier came out of the Central filling station. When the soldier pulled a pair of gloves out of his pocket a piece of paper money came out and blew across the street. Before Whitaker could pick it up the soldier hopped on his motorcycle and drove away. Along about the same time, Mr. Whitaker found a pocket book on Main Street near Rose's store. The pocketbook is worn out, but the several dollars in bills and change are still waiting for the owner, the finder said.

Weather Review In This Section For Last Month

Freezing Weather Reported On Seventeen Days In January

This section had all kinds of weather during the month of January, according to information released today by Hugh Spruill, bridgekeeper here. In addition to the weather, Mr. Spruill said the old Roanoke cut up a bit, too, jumping from a low of 3.7 feet on January 5 to 10.6 feet during the week-end.

There was freezing weather on seventeen days, but there were at least seven balmy days, the mercury reaching a high of 75 degrees on the 27th.

The 5.67 inches of rain were recorded on the 22nd.

On January 11 about one-half inch of snow and sleet fell here and another one-half inch was recorded on the 22nd.

The weather data, including the river gauge readings, as released by Mr. Spruill for the month of January follows, with the date in the first column, the river range readings in the second column, the maximum temperature reading in the third, minimum temperature reading in the fourth and the rainfall in the fifth column for each day of the month:

Date	River	H	L	Rain
1	6.0	66	28	0
2	6.4	63	27	0
3	5.2	65	38	.03
4	4.2	60	27	*
5	3.7	67	31	0
6	4.0	57	30	0
7	5.2	48	29	0
8	5.6	56	41	0
9	5.8	66	30	0
10	5.9	69	41	0
11	5.1	61	33	26
12	4.3	38	23	.78
13	4.2	34	16	*
14	5.8	36	17	0
15	6.5	44	32	.45
16	7.2	59	42	1.57
17	7.8	49	29	.07
18	3.1	47	21	0
19	7.5	70	33	0
20	7.4	69	43	*
21	7.6	69	60	.27
22	8.0	64	35	.60
23	9.0	35	26	1.66
24	9.6	43	27	*
25	10.0	58	36	0
26	10.2	70	36	0
27	10.4	75	54	0
28	10.5	70	38	0
29	10.55	48	28	0
30	10.6	59	27	0
31	10.6	54	29	0

County Solicitor Not A Candidate

Clarence W. Griffin this week announced that he would not be a candidate in the May primary to succeed himself as solicitor of the Martin County Recorder's Court. "After serving two terms in the position, I am withdrawing to devote all my time to the private practice of law," the Williamston attorney explained.

The term expires the last Monday in November of this year. While the office is an appointive one, it has been customary for years for candidates to enter the May primary and for the county commissioners to recognize the wishes of the electorate in making the appointment.

No official announcement has been released, but it is understood that a candidate will formally enter a bid for the position later in the week.

Fire Alarm Sounded Here Friday Afternoon

A general fire alarm was sounded here at 5:00 o'clock last Friday afternoon when an oil heater went out of control in the Carrie Dell Purington home back of Woodlawn Cemetery on West Franklin Street.

Neighbors rushed in, lifted the stove up and threw it out the door before the fire could spread. There was some smoke damage, it was reported.

Suffers Broken Arm In Fall Last Sunday

Mrs. Louis Roberson suffered a broken left arm in a fall at her home in Farm Life early Sunday afternoon. She was reported getting along very well today following treatment in a local hospital.

Mrs. Roberson was in the woods picking up wood when she accidentally fell.

Robbers Continue Active In County During Week-End

Break-Ins Reported In The Farm Life Section And Parmele

A little crime wave, striking the county before the Christmas season, was still in progress during the past week-end when two places of business were entered and robbed. A suspect is being questioned in the Parmele robbery, but no leads have been established in the other one.

Forcing open the back door, robbers entered the J. H. Roebuck store in Parmele sometime during the early part of last Thursday morning and carried away cigarettes, candy, overalls, the greater part of a round cheese, and several pipes. No estimate of the value of the stolen goods could be had immediately.

Merchandise, including a Mercury outboard motor valued at \$250, was stolen from the Noah Roberson store in Farm Life early last Friday morning. The robbers forced a staple on the front door and literally helped themselves to all kinds of food and merchandise. An incomplete inventory check listed the following items missing: seven or eight cartons of various kinds of cigarettes, seven or eight overall pants, two boxes of twelve sweat shirts, a cigar box filled with nickels and dimes, a cigar box filled with pennies, a cigarette spot lighter, a man's Garon wrist watch, four pad locks, dozen cash sticks, two boxes of cherry candy, one box of Mars candy, four boxes of gunshells and five or six boxes of bullets, a 600 by 16 Goodyear tire, a case of Uniflow oil, various canned goods, and several loaves of bread.

The robbers helped themselves to soft drinks and ice cream, leaving the boxes open. They examined many other boxes, but apparently took no merchandise from them. The loss will run into several hundred dollars, it was learned.

The robbery was discovered Friday morning when a soft drink distributor went there and found the doors open and no one there.

The sheriff's department is working night and day on the robberies, but are finding it difficult to establish a concrete evidence.

While investigating reported robberies, officers found three automobile jacks and numerous automobile parts believed to have been stolen from a vacant tenant house on the Ashley Wynne farm near Roberson's bridge. The auto supplies were found Sunday afternoon in the woods just off the Parmele-Highway 11 road.

Farm School In Progress Today

A special school for Martin County farmers is in progress in the courthouse here today.

Jim Butler and J. S. Buchanan of State College opened the school, the first session of which was fairly well attended this morning. They discussed livestock and allied topics.

This afternoon Dr. J. N. Sasser, nematologist, is discussing plant pathology.

Tomorrow morning at 10:00 o'clock R. R. Bennett and Astor Perry will talk about tobacco and peanuts, and a large crowd is expected to be present for those discussions. Tomorrow afternoon entomology will be the session topic.

Mothers' March A Great Success

Going into action for the first time in support of a town-wide drive, the Mothers' March on Polio was a great financial success here last Friday evening, according to a semi-final report released by Mrs. George Nicely, chairman. A few porches were conspicuous in the silent darkness, but beacon lights beamed throughout the town here and also in Jamesville where a similar march was launched.

Everywhere a beacon shed its light, a mother moved in to collect dimes for the infantile paralysis fund. Starting at the sound of the town's fire siren, the march moved forward rapidly and about an hour later a total of \$626.72 had been collected and turned in to the treasury.

The white residential areas, according to Mrs. Nicely, contributed \$503.13. The colored areas, according to Mrs. Cleo Tyner, donated \$118.59.

Mrs. J. C. Kirkman, heading the march in Jamesville, raised \$61.94, making a grand total of \$688.66.

It is possible that additional donations will be offered, and they should be turned into County Chairman W. M. Baker, Williamston.

Two of the eleven were white and the ages of the group ranged from 19 to 63 years.

ROUND-UP

Eleven persons were arrested and placed in the county jail during the past week-end. Six were booked for public drunkenness, two for assaults and one each for disorderly conduct, drunken driving and violating the National Guard Act.

Board Orders Survey For Paving Program

INSTALLED



The Rev. Davison H. Dulin was formally installed as pastor of the Presbyterian churches at Bear Grass and Roberson Chapel Sunday morning in the church at Bear Grass by a special commission appointed by the Albemarle Presbytery.

Christmas Seal Sale Report For County Released

Total of \$3,173.81 Raised During Campaign, Chairman Simpson Says

The annual Christmas Seal Sale recently completed in Martin County amounted to \$3,173.81 which is an increase of \$391.48 over the amount raised last year and \$673.81 in excess of the 1953 quota. Mr. J. Paul Simpson, Seal Sale Chairman, reports that of this sum \$990.00 was raised by the sale of 79 tuberculosis Seal Bonds.

According to Mr. Simpson, Williamston led the county with a bond sale of \$800.00. Purchasers of bonds sold in Williamston are as follows: \$25.00 Bonds—Chas. H. Jenkins & Co., J. Paul Simpson, Guaranty Bank & Trust Co., Dixie Motor Co., Williamston Lions Club, F. C. X., Standard Fertilizer Co., Belk-Tyler Co., Branch Banking & Trust Co., and Colonial Stores Inc.

Fifteen-dollar Bonds—W. I. Skinner and Co., Lindsley Implement Co., Harrison Oil Co., Farmer's Carolina Warehouse and Roanoke Chevrolet Co.

Ten-dollar bonds—Vicar Theatre, Brown's Community Hospital, Williamston Peanut Co., Baker Oil Co., Woolard Furniture Co., Margolis Brothers, W. G. Peele, Lindsley Ice Co., Farmer's Supply Co., J. S. Whitley, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Griffin's Quick Lunch, White's Sheet Metal Works, Harrison & Carstaphen, Martin Feed Mills, Davis Pharmacy, Williams-McCowan's Club, Neill Meyers Furniture Co., Corey Plumbing Co., Manning & Peele, Maola Ice Cream Co., Williamston Kiwanis Club, Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Co., Williamston Rotary Club, B. S. Courtney & Son, Ward's Superette Market, Rose's

(Continued on Page Six)

Rural Barn And Contents Bruned

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed a large barn, two mules and a large quantity of corn and hay, on the Lee D. Hardison farm near Holly Springs Church over in Williams Township shortly after 9:00 o'clock Sunday night.

No one had been to the barn for several hours and when discovered the fire had gained considerable headway. The family was looking at television when a member happened to glance out the window and see the bright light. The mule stalls were burning rapidly and the mules could not be driven from the barn. Mr. Hardison and others drove his car from a shed and saved a few other items.

Boy Scouts Plan District Banquet

The Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Senior Scouts and their parents will hold a district Parent-Scout Banquet at Bear Grass Thursday night of next week as a feature of the celebration of Boy Scout Week to be observed February 8 through the 14th.

All Scout units from Martin, Washington and Tyrrell counties are expected to be represented at the event to be held in the school auditorium following the supper to be served in the cafeteria. Between 200 and 300 are expected.

The program will consist of stunts or Scoutlike dramatizations by each of the Scout Units, a Court of Honor, movies and an address by District Scout Executive Gerry Ashwill.

All parents, Scouts and Cubs are urged to get their tickets from their Scout Master or Cub Master.

Town Officials In Regular Meeting Here Last Night

Go-Ahead Signal Given For Surfacing Railroad Street

In response to a plea advanced by local citizens, Williamston's town commissioners in their regular meeting last night ordered a survey made, looking forward to an extensive street paving program.

The proposed program was briefly discussed at the last night session, but no definite action is to be expected until the survey is completed and cost figures are determined and other details are considered. It was pointed out that possibly a \$200,000 bond issue could finance a paving program that would meet the most pressing needs. It was also explained that the town has a \$350,500 bonded debt, that a large portion of that amount would be retired within the next four or five years. It is believed the town is in position to increase its bonded debt by nearly \$500,000, but that possibly a \$200,000 issue would prove sufficient now. A preliminary study shows that the street bond issue could be retired with Powell Bill money, that property owners would accept a large portion of the cost, and that the general tax rate would not be increased.

Dozens of petitions are already on file in the office of the clerk, each calling for street paving. It is believed that the petitions would be recognized in the order of their presentation. At the same time it is quite evident that no extensive program can be financed from current funds, that the approximately \$3,500 now received annually in Powell Bill street money will not be able to finance much of a program, that it will be years before much paving can be handled unless a bond issue is advanced.

Spokesmen at the meeting last night were agreed that the paving program should be advanced if it can be handled without affecting the general tax rate. However, it was admitted that there are many problems to be solved in connection with the program. The width of some streets presents a problem. Drainage constitutes another problem in some areas, and there are some streets where water and sewer lines are yet to be laid.

There is a growing sentiment for some action to relieve the present conditions. It was pointed out that few available building lots are now available on paved streets, that if the town is to progress it must keep abreast of the times and needs.

One paving project centered on Railroad Street between Smithwick and Washington Streets and pending for several years, was finally approved last night when it was reported that an agreement relative to the right-of-way had been reached.

(Continued on Page Six)

Call Seven For Pre-Induction

Six Martin County young men reported Monday to the armed forces center in Raleigh for pre-induction examinations.

No calls either for preliminary tests and final induction are pending in this county. None is expected for final induction this month, and possible there'll be none either for pre-induction or final induction in March.

Those making the trip to the center Monday traveled by charter bus and included five white and two colored registrants, as follows:

White: Joseph Mayo Harrison of RFD 3, Williamston and RFD 2, Robersonville, Giles Langdon Martin of Everetts and Wake Forest, Edward Earl Coltrain of RFD 1, Williamston, Joseph Gray Water of RFD 1, Jamesville, and G. Over Gene Williams of Jamesville.

Colored: Harry Leon Latham of Williamston and Willie Lawrence, Jr. of RFD 1, Robersonville.

NEW FIRMS

The number of business firms in Martin County was increased by 66 from 310 to 376 during the two-year period, November, 1951, to November, 1953, according to a report released by the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development.

The nature of the new firms was not mentioned in the report, but the gain in this county was believed to have been considerably above the average for this section of the State.

Future Of Little Baseball League Hangs In Balance

Colored Citizens Consider Organizing Four Teams Here This Year

Despite a willingness to carry on expressed by a number of civic-minded leaders in a meeting at the courthouse here last Thursday evening, the future of little league baseball is hanging in the balance in Williamston.

At their meeting, the leaders, headed by Mayor Robt. H. Cowen, agreed to have the league's national charter renewed, and \$20 was placed in the mail without delay. The officials indirectly agreed to start their third year in the trying tasks, with the understanding that all activities will be suspended if nothing more than taken support is offered the project by the parents, the boys, the sponsors and the general public.

"We are not griping about the indifference surrounding the program last year," one official said, explaining that it is impossible to carry on unless more interest is shown on the part of all concerned.

The problems encountered last season were reviewed, a report from the treasurer stating that the players found it necessary to go into the streets and plead for financial support. It was also explained that the operation fell on the shoulders on three or four men and volunteers, who found it necessary to handle the duties of bat boy, delivery boy, coach manager and umpire.

Representatives of the sponsoring organizations agreed at the meeting last Thursday evening that they would discuss the program with their clubs, advancing the opinion that more interest and better support would be forthcoming this season.

Each club is to be asked to advance a \$25 donation and pledge the services of ten men either from within or without the club membership. If the conditions are met by each of the clubs—Jaycees, Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary—the forty-men will be called into a meeting to discuss plans for launching the 1954 season. Spring practice is tentatively set for April, but that and other plans will await action by the clubs.

While the league officials and other leaders listened intently with a plan to create a league.

(Continued on Page Eight)