

County Fair To Open Monday, October 25

Task Force Builds Booths And Wires Building Tuesday

Organizations Give Attention To Urgent Need For Modern Library

By Wendell Peel

With booth sections practically complete, the 1954 version of the Martin County Agricultural Fair is rapidly shaping up for the opening on Monday, October 25. A task force of approximately 80 members of the local Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, the sponsoring organizations, met at the New Carolina Warehouse on Tuesday night and in a matter of hours had completed the wiring and much of the carpentry work. Teams of workmen from both clubs will continue to work each remaining night during the week and on Saturday afternoon preparing the exhibition hall for the many exhibits and free shows which will be featured at the event next week.

Many commercial booths are already being prepared by their sponsors and by Saturday, the warehouse is expected to be humming with the activity of exhibitors. With all but four small and one large booth spaces already reserved, indications are that these exhibits will be among the most numerous ever displayed in this part of the state. The quality of these exhibits is also expected to reach an all time high as firms throughout the county vie with each other in presenting their merchandise in the best manner possible.

Farm, home, school and other non-commercial exhibits are also expected to be among the finest ever put on display. They will be less numerous, of course, than those to be seen at the State Fair, but it is certain that they will reflect a great deal of credit to their sponsors and to Martin County.

Fair manager, John Hatton Gurganus, announced today that the warehouse will be opened daily at 1:00 p. m., during the remainder of the week.

More Changes In Mail Schedules

More changes are being made in mail schedules for this section.

The latest change provides a round-trip schedule between Williamston and Elizabeth City daily except Sundays and holidays. Postmaster W. E. Dunn announced yesterday.

The new star route carrier leaves Elizabeth City each morning at 7:15 a. m., traveling via Winfall, Hertford, Edenton, Merry Hill, and Windsor, reaching Williamston about 10:15 a. m. The carrier leaves Williamston on the return trip at 2:15 o'clock in the afternoon.

The following mail schedules are now in effect for the local office:

Outgoing
5:30 a. m., to Elizabeth City via Plymouth and via Windsor.
7:00 a. m., to Rocky Mount via Robertsonville.
1:30 p. m., to Plymouth
2:15 p. m., to Elizabeth City via Windsor, connecting with highway post office for Norfolk, reaching the Virginia city about 7:00 p. m.
5:30 p. m., to Rocky Mount via Robertsonville.
5:30 p. m., to Windsor.
6:30 p. m., to Rocky Mount via Washington.

Incoming
5:15 a. m., from Rocky Mount via Robertsonville.
5:30 a. m., from Rocky Mount via Washington.
7:30 a. m., from Plymouth.
10:15 a. m., from Elizabeth City via Windsor.
1:30 p. m., from Rocky Mount via Robertsonville.
5:00 p. m., from Elizabeth City via Windsor.
6:30 p. m., from Elizabeth City via Plymouth, and
6:30 p. m., from Windsor.

DISTRICT RALLY

Although they hold a safe position, Democrats in the First Congressional district are holding a big rally in Elizabeth City this afternoon at 5:00 o'clock, the event to be followed by a big fish fry on the Weeksville road.

Prominent Democrats in the State are attending the meeting along with a sizable delegation from this county.

While there's little opposition in this area, Democrats in the county and district are being asked to help build up a strong victory margin for the state ticket November 2.

Call Twenty-Four Cases In County's Recorder's Court

Fines Add Up to Only \$160 During Short Session Monday Morning

Business was comparatively slack in Judge H. O. Peele's court last Monday when only twenty-four cases were called during a short session. Ten of the cases involved speeding charges.

Proceedings:
Pleading not guilty, Jesse Fields was adjudged guilty and was sentenced to the roads for four months in the case in which he was charged with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Carlton Hezekiah Merritt of RFD 1, Oriental, was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs when he pleaded guilty of speeding seventy miles an hour.

Charged with issuing a worthless check, James Hardison was adjudged guilty over his plea of

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Minor Wrecks On County Highways

No one was injured in two minor motor vehicle accidents reported on the highways in this county yesterday.

Lester Randolph Meeks of RFD 1, Merry Hill, overran a curve in the McCaskey road at 4:00 o'clock yesterday morning and wrecked his 1950 Buick. Damage to the car was estimated at \$200.

Driving on Highway 903 about two miles north of Robertsonville Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, Alonza Gray Rawls of RFD 1, Robertsonville, lost control of his 1947 Chevrolet pick-up and ditched it, causing about \$150 damage. Rawls was said to have ditched the machine to avoid striking another vehicle that had stopped just ahead of him for a school bus.

Wide Screen Is Put In Use At Viccar

Installed Tuesday and Wednesday while the theater was closed, the new wide screen at the Viccar Theatre will be put into use today with the first showing of "Duel In The Sun" which will run the rest of this week.

Another CinemaScope feature, "The High and The Mighty" will start Sunday and run through Thursday of next week.

REGISTRATION

Saturday of this week is the last day to get new names on the registration books for the general election on November 2. Board of Elections Chairman C. D. Carstarphen explains.

During the past few days few names were added to the books, and all indications point to a listless vote in this county.

Those who are not registered and who want to vote in the November 2 election should contact the registrar in their respective precincts and get their names on the books.

Man's Body Found In Farm Pasture Early Wednesday

John Mason, Missing Since Sunday, Believed Victim Of Foul Play

Missing since Sunday from his home in Bear Grass Township, John Mason, Negro farmer, was found dead in a hog pasture on the Jimmy Bowen farm early Wednesday morning, his body reduced to a badly torn skeleton by hogs. Officers are convinced there was foul play, but no definite lead had been established in the gruesome case early today.

Mason, 60-year-old tenant farmer on the Rogers farm near Bear Grass, was last seen with Robert Everett, Williamston Negro, about 8:00 o'clock Sunday evening. They were riding in Mason's 1942 Chevrolet which Mason bought only a few weeks ago. The car is gone along with \$100 or more Mason had in cash on his person, and Everett has not been seen since Sunday.

The two were said to have attended a barbecue supper in the Bear Grass community, reports stating that the group imbibed freely of liquor.

It was also reported that the car was seen parked in the road about sunset Sunday near the pasture where the skeleton was found yesterday.

Farmer Gus Hardison, living on the Bowen farm, found his hogs tugging at the skeleton shortly after 7:00 o'clock when he went to feed his hogs yesterday morning. Undertaker J. D. Everett could find only part of the skeleton. The torso was missing along with one arm. A little flesh was left on the skull, the feet and one hand.

It was said that Everett had a

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Peanut Harvest Gains Momentum

Started on a limited scale last week, the peanut harvest is gradually picking up and is expected to push toward a peak in this county next week, weather conditions permitting.

The threshing operations are scattered over the county where the crop was dug early.

Graders are being assigned the county and extensive arrangements have been made to grade and handle the crop in the several markets.

Only a few sales have been reported, the price holding close to thirteen cents a pound so far.

Pavers Make Progress On The Streets Here

Asphalt pavers are making progress on the streets here this week, and possibly will catch up with the curb and gutter contractors late tomorrow. Just about all streets in the northeast section of the town will have been paved by late today or early tomorrow along with several blocks on West Church, Pearl and Sycamore.

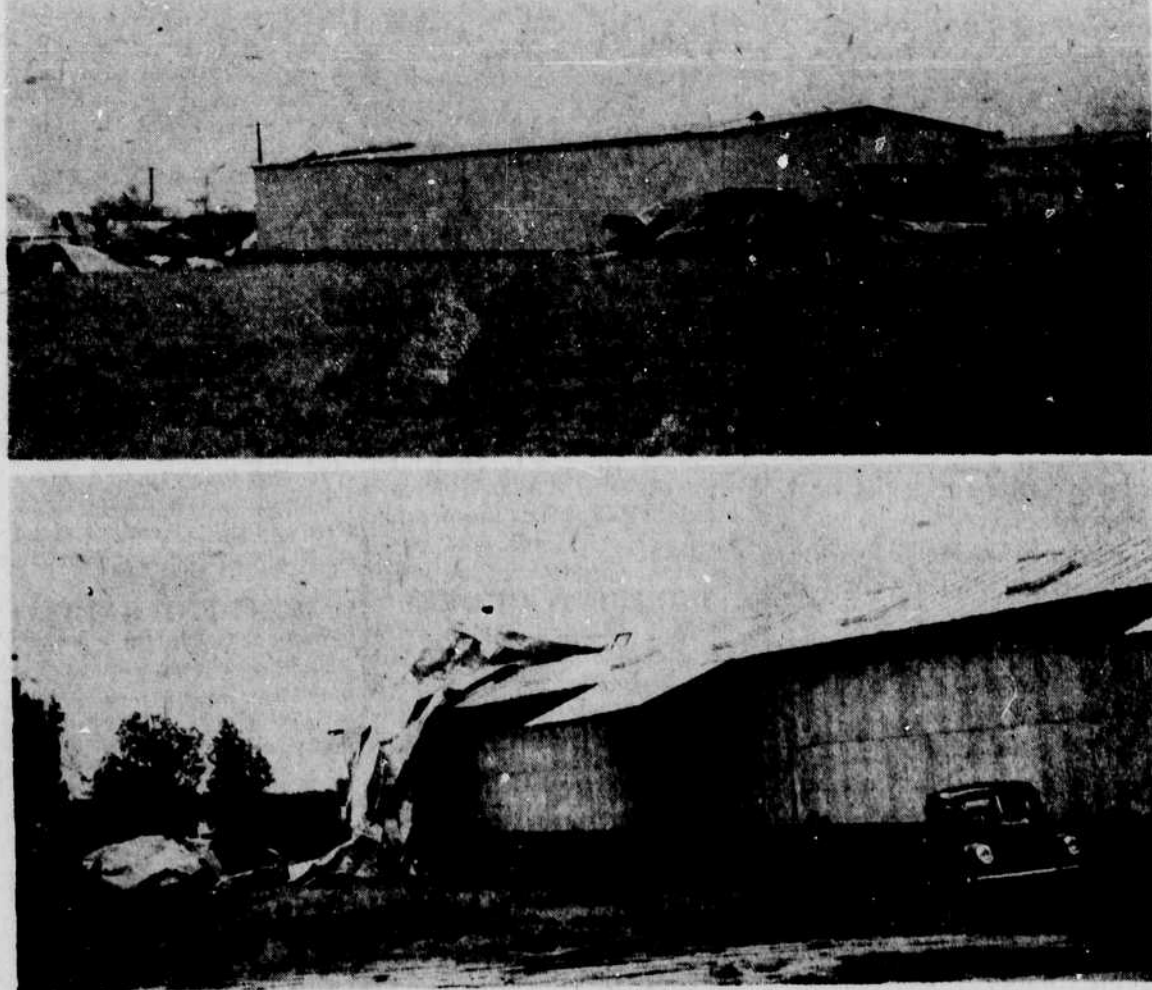
The paving contractors will then withdraw and wait for the curb and gutter contractors to get more streets ready for surfacing.

Civil War Diary of Docton Warren Bagley

Installment 21
(Their forces shattered and scattered following the fall of Fort Hatteras, Martin County men reformed a new company, including those home on furlough at the time the Dare County fell, those who escaped from the Outer Banks and new recruits. They called themselves the "Hatteras Avengers", and were incorporated in the 31st Regiment under Colonel Jordan. In this, the 21st installment of Docton W. Bagley's diary, the personnel of the company is listed under an October, 1861, date.)

Volunteer Company
"The Hatteras Avengers"
Captain C. W. Knight
From the returned and those on furlough of the Roanoke Guards and of the Hamilton Guards and others here joining, makes up this company, after which the following officers as here set forth were elected:

Storm Damage In Williamston



Leaving a few structures untouched and spending full fury on others, Hurricane Hazel last Friday exacted a million-dollar damage toll in this section. While property owners are busy digging under the debris, the task will go on for weeks. A few scenes offer some idea of the extent of the damage in Williamston.

In the top picture, large piles of tin are seen rolled as a carpet from storage houses at the Williamston Peanut Company plant. The second picture from the top shows tin blown from the Carolina Warehouse. The next picture shows shanties blown from the Williamston Tractor and Implement Company property and placed against the J. D. McCotter Company plant, some little distance away. Trees are seen piled up in the Jos. Robertson home next to the county courthouse on East Main Street.—Pictures by Royal Studio.

Griffin, Alex Griffin, George W. Hardison, Standley D. Hardison, Benjamin T. Harrell, William Harrell, Rodman Harrison, Joshua Hutchins, James R. Hoard, S. B. Huff, James Hurst, W. J. Hoard, Martin Johnson, Henry F. Lilley, Ebenezer Lilley, Mc. G. Lilley, James Lynch, Standley Leggett, Jesse Martin, Merimon Meeks, Mc. Eli Mabray, George Martin, Alfred S. Newberry, James R. Perry, James R. Peel, Josiah Pugh, Simon S. Perry, Dorsen Price, Julius Perkins, James T. Price, David Parker, J. D. Price, K. J. Rawls, William H. Reddick, W. E. Robason, William Rawls, Henry Rawls, J. B. Stevenson, John Salsbury, William Scott, John Stalls, Baker Staton, Thomas Williams, William H. Weathersbee, F. W. Waters, Green C. Whitaker, Benjamin C. Ward, Henry Warren, William H. Williams, James L. Ward, Noah H. Weaver, J. W. Wadsworth, Randolph Richard, James H. Ward, N. H. L. Gray, John W. Moore and Turner Page.

Area Digging From Under Storm Debris

DEDICATION

Plans are shaping up nicely for the dedication of the new \$100,000 National Guard armory here next Friday, it was announced.

The program gets under way at 4:30 o'clock when the high school band presents a program. The ceremonies are scheduled for 5:00 o'clock, followed by a big barbecue dinner. The event will be climaxed by a dance that night at 10:00 o'clock.

The sale of tickets to the barbecue is encouraging, the Guard officers explaining that the proceeds from the supper and dance will be used in beautifying the grounds.

Few Farmers Had Part Recently In Special Election

Quite A Few Changes Made In Community Committee Members

Comparatively few farmers in this county participated in the recently held Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation community elections, but the vote was said to have been fairly representative. Even though they cast a small vote, Martin farmers made their community committee selections for the year beginning November 1, and went on to name delegates to the county convention which elected virtually the same county committee for the new year.

Only 726 votes were cast, the count being usually small in some districts. Fairly large votes were cast in Jamesville and Griffins districts. Considering its size, Williams also polled a fairly large vote.

No polls were held open, the farmers voting by direct mail. Ballots were mailed to a limited

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Homecoming And Pep Rally Here

A contest to select the 1954 Homecoming Queen of Williamston High School ends Friday with the crowning of the queen in front of Central Service Station around three o'clock. The candidates are Blanch Manning, Mary Lee White, representing the Sophomore Class, Shiria Griffin, DeKres Shipley, representing the Junior Class, Nancy Revels, and Janice Holliday representing the Senior Class. Everyone has the chance to vote for the person of his choice. Jars have been placed in the stores in downtown Williamston, and votes are a penny each. The Queen will be introduced Friday night at the Williamston - Plymouth game, and will parade Friday afternoon along Smithwick and Main Streets, stopping for a pep rally in front of the Central Service Station. The people of Williamston are cordially invited to attend the parade, join the pep rally, come to the football game Friday night, and enjoy the Homecoming as much as the students of Williamston High School. Show your interest in the school and the students by coming to the pep rally and the game.

The student body, accompanied by the band, will parade Friday afternoon along Smithwick and Main Streets, stopping for a pep rally in front of the Central Service Station. The people of Williamston are cordially invited to attend the parade, join the pep rally, come to the football game Friday night, and enjoy the Homecoming as much as the students of Williamston High School. Show your interest in the school and the students by coming to the pep rally and the game.

TOBACCO SALES

While the record sales are over for the current season, the Williamston tobacco market is handling a fair-sized poundage from day to day. During the first three days of this week, the market sold nearly half million pounds or 446,272 pounds for an average above 57 cents per pound. Up until this morning, the market had handled 12,131,096 pounds at an average of \$55.75 per hundred pounds.

Telephone, Light, Telegraph Service Now Near Normal

Many Insurance Claims Filed Along With Appeals To The Red Cross

Martin County is rapidly digging from under the debris scattered everywhere by the hurricane last Friday, and while signs of the big blow will remain for a long time, conditions are rapidly approaching normal, according to reports coming from all sides.

Communications and power-light services are normal or are approaching normal, and hundreds of repairs are patching and replacing roofs and damaged buildings.

Restoring possibly seventy percent of its service within six hours after the storm struck, the Virginia Electric and Power Company had its operations back to normal early Tuesday. Sixty men, forming emergency crews, were brought here to help clean up after the blow. They with the regular employees worked almost around the clock and Sunday, too, trying to restore service to all the company's patrons. "We are still checking, but as far as we know all our customers have service," Mr. Allen Hadfield, representative of the company, said late yesterday.

Western Union Telegraph Company restored its wire services here and in several other eastern Carolina towns yesterday. Up until that time, it offered twice daily service by special messengers running out of and into Raleigh. Bruce Strickland, local manager for the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, said yesterday that approximately fifty percent of the estimated 1,500 telephones in this area had been restored to service, that the recovery was progressing fairly rapidly now that the major damage had been cleared.

The town was cut off from the outside world for almost twenty-four hours, and then communications were limited to a radius of hardly more than 30 miles. Connections were made early this week with Rocky Mount and Tuesday lines were opened to other centers. Communication by telephone is now possible almost to any point, but on a limited basis, Mr. Strickland explaining that not all the lines have been repaired. Most of the telephones in Williamston are now in service, but some of the towns in the county are still cut off along with many rural stations. The company bor-

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Entertainment At The County Fair

A big entertainment program has been planned for the annual Martin County Fair opening on the Washington Street properties and in the Carolina Warehouse here next Monday, it was announced by the management.

Monday evening the Melody Masters will perform. This is one of the best choruses in this section and the group has spent much time preparing its program for the fair.

Colored talent will feature the program Tuesday evening with Dick Carter as master of ceremonies.

The Sunshine Boys, well known group and who have a large following throughout this entire section, are on the program for Wednesday evening.

Dick Carter will master the ceremonies for the white talent show Thursday evening. Some keen competition is developing for the special prizes.

The Grand Ole Opry is presenting Cowboy Copas and his Oklahoma Cowboys Friday night.

A jamboree is booked for the last night of the fair on October 30 when Hal Lemmond and his TV stars take over.

In addition to the special events, there'll be entertainment in the way of rides and shows on the midway all during the week.