

## Enter Suit for \$15,000 Against Town Account Death of Child

### Was Struck by Board Falling From City Hall

#### It is Understood That Town Will Fight The Claim

A suit against the town of Williamston for \$15,000 was started last night when a claim for that amount was asserted to the board of commissioners. The claim is being made by Mrs. Lucy Mobley, administratrix, and comes as a result of the death of Ruth M. Modlin, a 9-year-old girl, who was killed when a plank fell from the roof of the city hall here on the 18th of August. Addressed to the Board of Council of the Town of Williamston, the claim contends that the death of the child was due to negligence of the town's agents and employees. B. A. Critcher is attorney for the plaintiffs.

The firm of H. J. Beaman & Son, painters, of Suffolk, Va., had contracted with the town to paint the roof and steeple of the city hall, and while fulfilling the contract a board in some way was pulled from the roof by a swinging rope. The timber plunged down and went through an umbrella carried by the girl and struck her on the head, crushing the skull. Several of the umbrella ribs were driven into the child's neck by the falling plank, and though she regained consciousness shortly afterwards she died about 7 o'clock in the evening.

The child was the daughter of Mrs. Lucy Modlin and the late William Modlin, and at the time of the accident she was on an errand for her mother to the city market.

Just what course the town will take in the matter has not been definitely decided upon, but it is generally believed that the town will fight the claim. There are some, however, who think the case will be compromised.

### Tree Has 19 Tons of Concrete Poured in It

Doubtless the heaviest tree in this section of the State is to be found at the home of Mr. B. B. Everett, at Palmyra. The tree, a giant oak, 5 1/2 feet in diameter, was hollow and showed much sign of decay until a few years ago, when Mr. Everett had the tree doctored. First of all, he had it reinforced by heavy iron rods, passing entirely through the tree from side to side to hold the outside shells together. He then had the hollow cleaned and scraped, removing all the dead and loose wood in the great cavity. After the tree had been thoroughly put in order Mr. Everett had 19 tons of concrete poured and packed into the hollow.

The tree has since taken on new life and grown very rapidly. The hollow, which was formerly open to view for about 25 feet up the tree, has now almost totally been overgrown with good healthy fiber, the cement being visible only at a few places.

It is doubtful if there is another tree in the world that has taken one dose of medicine that weighed 19 tons and still retains it and is thriving on it.

The tree is on Mr. Everett's "Woodstock" farm, one mile from Palmyra. Mr. Everett says he feels sure the tree will not be cut with either axe or saw, for not only is the entire hollow full of concrete, but it is reinforced with iron and steel rods.

## STRAND THEATRE

TONIGHT  
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS  
in  
"THE THREE MUSKETEERS"  
Always a Good Show

## Last-Minute Couple Helps County to Beat Marriage Records of Two Preceding Years by 1 Per Cent



### Basketball to be Feature of Peanut Show

#### At Least Two Teams Expected to Be From This County

Open to any school in Eastern Carolina and Tide Water Virginia, the basketball tournament at the Peanut Exposition in Windsor the latter part of this month will be a real feature of the show. Beginning Tuesday night, December 27, the tournament is expected to last through Thursday night when the final game will be played. Schools all over this part of the State and Tide Water Virginia are preparing for the event.

After all of the teams shall have been entered a drawing will take place by numbers and the teams will play in the order of the numbers drawn. For instance, team No. 1 will play in the first game, team No. 2 will play in the first game, Nos. 3 and 4 will be together and so on. The elimination contest will follow the order as the various teams are eliminated.

The people of Windsor have very willingly promised to care for the players on the teams, and three days of real entertainment is assured. Each team will be allowed to have three substitutes besides the regular team in the tournament.

Those in charge of the contest are working to make this a most enjoyable part of the exposition. A silver loving cup has been purchased and will be awarded the team winning the final game. All the teams' members will be entertained free by the people of Windsor during their stay there.

Referees and umpires will be selected from the schools not having teams in the tournament. Nothing but bona-fide high school players will be allowed to participate. The schools expecting to enter teams in the tournament and haven't already done so, should certify a list of their players and send to secretary-manager, N. G. Bartlett at Kinston before the 20th of this month.

While it is not definitely known, it is generally expected that this county will have at least two teams entered in the contest.

### Bazaar at Woman's Club Next Thursday

The bazaar this year will be given by the ladies of the Methodist aid society in the Woman's Club rooms Thursday evening. The doors will be opened at 5 o'clock and a delicious turkey dinner will be served at the dinner hour. There will be other good things to eat; in fact, almost anything one wants.

The women have made many lovely things suitable for gifts for any member of the family for the Christmas season. They will be priced reasonably, and those who want the prettiest articles will do well to go early.

### Everetts Woodmen to Meet Next Monday

The regular meeting of the Everetts Camp, M. W. A., will be held Monday night, December 13. All members are urged to attend.

After the meeting oysters will be served to those present. It is very important that members of the local camp be present, as it is time for the election of officers at this meeting.

## Market to Close 17th; to Reopen After Holidays

### Mr. W. I. Skinner Appointed to Head the Board

The local Tobacco Board of Trade met this morning in the offices of the Brick warehouse in the last meeting before the Christmas holidays. Taking up such matters that are of much interest to the tobacco market, the Board was thorough in caring for those particulars that will be of aid to the market.

The closing date for the Christmas holidays was determined by the Board, December 17 being set for the last sale date before Christmas. Upon motion of several of the members, the Williamston market will reopen after the Christmas holidays about the 12th of January, and will remain open as long as it can be of service to the farmers of this section. All the buyers stated they would be back again after the holidays.

Mr. W. I. Skinner, one of the market's most reliable tobacco men, was appointed to head the Tobacco Board of Trade, his duties beginning the 17th of this month and continuing through the summer of next year. Remembering the hospitality of the local Chamber of Commerce when it gave a reception to the Tobacco Board of Trade, it was decided by the tobacco men that the favor be returned. To do this a supper is being planned for next Thursday night. Messrs. K. B. Crawford, Frank C. Bennett and S. Baughm were appointed as a committee to attend to the details of preparing the feast.

All the members of the Board are very anxious to make the supper a success as was seen during the meeting this morning when they talked of buying oysters to the amount of 40 bushels and more, along with large quantities of dressings, pickles, etc. Definite arrangements will be made by the committee today and tomorrow preparatory to the supper Thursday night.

The happy couple, Mollie Anthony and John Rascoe, had "eloped" their friends and families and were minus only a magistrate. Seeing a light in the Biggs drug store they went in to inquire the whereabouts of one Mr. Pardo happened along about that time and he felt it a shame to send them out into the cold in search of a J. P.; so he kindly offered his services.

L. T. Fowden was master of ceremonies at S. Rome Biggs finished up the wedding in grand style by presenting the bride with a handsome present.

### Fire Does Little Damage to City Hall Saturday

Little damage was done last Saturday night when two moving picture films burned at the Strand theatre in the City Hall. The fire department was called, and the blaze was soon extinguished.

While the damage to the building was small, a loss of about \$200 was suffered by the show's management.

The fire interfered very little with the showing of the pictures since the Saturday night show was almost over when it occurred. The machine has been repaired and pictures are being shown as usual.

Douglas Fairbanks presents a splendid picture tonight when the "Three Musketeers" will be shown.

The policy of the show giving a free pass Friday night to those who attend on Wednesday is meeting with approval from large numbers.

### Jamesville Team Practices Here

The Jamesville High School basketball squad is very much in earnest in its effort as is seen when the team's members visit here and practice in the Brick Warehouse. Ten of the school's boys were here yesterday afternoon working to better themselves for future games.

Interest in that game at Jamesville is of no small measure. The boys of the school show a real cooperative spirit and they are well supported by the patrons of the school. The team is one of the strongest in the county and section, having only Everetts as an equal.

### Oak City Defeats Hamilton 28 to 7

Oak City, Dec. 6.—(Special to the Enterprise)—The Oak City High School won its second basketball victory here today when they ran away with the Hamilton team by a score of 28 to 7. The losers put up a good fight and improved in the later stages of the game. The score at the half was 9 to 1. Oak City's scoring was well distributed, with Manning high point man with 14. Everett led in scoring for the losers.

Dr. J. E. Smi hwiek of Jamesville was here on business yesterday.

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### Tobacco Averaged 28 Cents Yesterday

Tobacco on the local warehouse floors averaged around 28 cents yesterday when a fairly large amount of the weed was put on sale. The average today, while not complete, is estimated to equal that made yesterday when the approximately 50,000 pounds are sold.

The market closes the 17th of this month for the Christmas holidays. At a meeting of the Tobacco Board of Trade this morning, it was decided to have the market reopen after the holidays and remain open until all the section's tobacco had been housed. Just what date the market will reopen was not decided upon.

### Woman's Club Meeting Postponed to Friday

Upon request of the Methodist women, who will have their bazaar in the club rooms Thursday, the regular meeting of the Woman's Club will be postponed until Friday afternoon at 3:15. On account of work that was being done on the building the women were unable to get the rooms in readiness for the bazaar before Wednesday.

The meeting Friday bids fair to be very interesting. Mrs. Wheeler Martin, chairman of the program committee, has asked Superintendent Pope, of the county schools, to talk on the county school affairs. This subject is near to the hearts of the women and they are requested to all come to the meeting.

### County Agent's Report For Month November

Follow is the report of County agent T. B. Brandon, as submitted to the Board of County Commissioners at their meeting here yesterday: 14 days spent in the field. 12 days spent in the office. 67 office conferences. 67 telephone calls. 74 letters written on official duties. 59 farms visited during month. 611 miles traveled on official duties. 4 articles written on official duties. 32 head of hogs treated. This month I made up an order for 25,450 pounds of Pyratol. One week of this month was spent in making the annual report.

EPISCOPAL MEN TO DINE TONIGHT AT PARISH HOUSE The women of the local Episcopal church will entertain the men of the church tonight in the parish house. A fine turkey dinner will be served at 7:30. Several out of town guests are expected to attend.

## New County Officers and Commissioners Took Over County Affairs Yesterday

### All County Officers Take Oath of Office Before R. J. Peel, Clerk

Meeting for its last time, the outgoing Martin County Board of Commissioners turned the county's business over to the new board yesterday when it met in the rooms in the courthouse.

The old board of commissioners, composed of H. C. Green, chairman; H. M. Burras, J. N. Hopkins, T. B. Slade, Jr., and J. G. Barnhill met to approve the minutes of the last meeting and to receive reports from the various county agents and complete the work left over from previous meetings.

A resolution to extend a \$25,000 current expense note for 60 days was passed. A loan not to exceed \$2,500 to Edward James was authorized out of the interest and sinking fund of the county.

All bills for accounts made under authority of the board were ordered paid. At this point the old board, having finished all its business, turned over the county's work to the incoming board.

The members of the new board of commissioners, J. G. Barnhill, T. E. Slade, Jr., John E. Pope, T. C. Griffin, and L. P. Holliday, all being present, took and subscribed to the oath required of county commissioners before R. J. Peel, clerk of court, here yesterday at noon.

After taking the oath of office the board was organized by electing J. G. Barnhill, of Robersonville, chairman, by a unanimous vote.

R. J. Peel, clerk of the superior court-elect, presented his official bond in the sum of \$10,000, which was approved and accepted. A. L. Roebuck, sheriff-elect, presented his official bond in the sum of \$5,000, with the American Surety Co., of New York as surety. The bond was approved and accepted, and Mr. Roebuck was qualified by taking the oath of office required of the sheriff.

J. Sam Getsinger, register of deeds-elect, presented his official bond in the sum of \$5,000, with the Atlantic Surety Co., as surety. The bond was accepted and he took the prescribed oath of office.

C. D. Cartarphen, treasurer-elect, presented his two bonds, his official county bond in the sum of \$25,000, the other, his school tax bond, in the sum of \$50,000; with personal sureties. The bonds were accepted and approved, and he took the oath as treasurer.

W. E. Early, of Goose Nest Township, also presented his bond as constable of the township, which was approved and accepted. Johniland was unanimously elected keeper of the County Home for the year, 1927. Mr. Bland has been keeper of the home for several years. During that time he has gained the confidence of all the inmates and has served the County well.

J. B. Roberson was allowed the sum of \$400 per month until further orders on account of outside poor.

Dr. W. E. Warren was re-elected county superintendent of health at a salary of \$30.00 per month.

The Board ordered that W. A. Ayers be paroled at the expiration of three months from the September term of the superior court under authority granted under a judgment of Judge M. V. Barnhill.

Ayers was charged with drunkenness and was sentenced to six months in jail with a possibility of parole at the end of three months. His conduct during the past three months makes possible his release.

Lucenda Scott of Robersonville township was released from payment of taxes on property valued at \$500 and listed by error in 1926.

Walter Bailey presented his official bond as constable of Bear Grass township. The bond was accepted and Bailey qualified by taking the required oath of office.

The Board ordered that J. S. Getsinger be paid the sum of \$50 per month as auditor of the county.

After approving the bonds of the several county officers and ordering a special school election in Biggs school district, the new board adjourned for its first meeting.

### Parents-Teachers Meet Thursday

Every parent is urged by Mrs. P. H. Cone, president of the parents-teachers association, to attend a meeting of that body next Thursday at 4 o'clock in the school auditorium. The meeting will last for only a short time, and a good attendance is hoped for.

## City Fathers in Monthly Meet Monday Night

### City of Richmond Will Send Street Truck On Approval



The meeting of the Town Commissioners last night was a busy one when matters pertaining to claims, the fire department, the street cleaning department, and dances came before the Board.

Members of the local fire department headed by Chief Henry Harrison appeared before the Board and asked that change in the present fire alarm system be made if possible. The plans of the proposed system call for the installation of a siren with control boxes in several parts of the town. The boxes, once the system is adopted, will be installed from time to time. No action was taken by the Board, but the fire department's members were instructed to investigate the system and report to the Board at a future meeting. Mr. Norris, of the Federal Electric company, was here explaining his company's system, but the matter of investigation was left entirely with the members of the fire department. The question comes up as a result of the inadequacy of the present alarm system. Should the Board support the fire department in the matter, a double-header siren will be installed with control boxes in various parts of the town.

### E. A. Edwards Died at High Point Friday

The following, taken from the High Point Enterprise, bespeaks the high regard in which Mr. E. A. Edwards, who died in that city last Friday, was held in that city. He and his family were residents of this section for many years and there are many friends here who were deeply grieved to hear of his death.

The article follows: E. A. Edwards, 58 years old, a well known and respected citizen of this city, died at his residence, 300 Sunset Drive, last night at 10:30 o'clock following a short illness. Mr. Edwards had been in declining health for several weeks, but his death, a result of heart failure, came as a distinct shock to his friends and relatives.

Emmett Albert Edwards was born in Cumberland County, N. C., December 15, 1868, a son of the late Rev. E. J. and Labella Hare Edwards. On January 10, 1897, he was married to Miss Addie L. Ward, and for a number of years was in the mercantile business at Williamston, N. C. He moved to High Point from that city in 1919, and for a few years was connected with Wood Brothers.

Following his retirement from Wood Bros., Mr. Edwards again entered the mercantile business and operated a store on east Washington Street. He was forced to give up this business about two years ago on account of ill health.

Mr. Edwards was a member of Wesley Memorial Church, and was active in religious affairs up to the time of his illness.

The deceased is survived by his widow, three sons, E. Jack Edwards, Ralph Edward, and William W. Edwards. Two daughters, Mrs. Wilton A. Knox, of Williamston; and Miss Louise Edwards, of this city. A brother, J. F. Edwards, of Cuero, Texas. Two sisters, Mrs. Ella Blake and Mrs. Julian Bruton, of Sanford, N. C.

Funeral services will be conducted at the residence tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock by the Rev. John W. Moore, pastor of Wesley Memorial Church, and Dr. Lloyd T. Wilson, pastor of the First Baptist Church. Burial will be made at Oakwood cemetery.

### Boat Hits Submerged Log; Loses Propeller

The motor ship Albemarle, of the Norfolk, Baltimore & Carolina Line, was put adrift Sunday evening when a log hit and knocked the propeller wheel of the boat off. Coming down what looked to be a clear river, the boat struck a submerged log just this side of Spellers Ferry on the Roanoke, causing it to tie up.

Simultaneously with the blow, the engines of the boat began to race, and Captain Toler knew the propeller was loose. The trouble was reported to Norfolk and a tug arrived this morning to tow the damaged boat with its load of 2,200 bags of peanuts and many bales of cotton to Norfolk. Other than the loss of the propeller wheel no damage was evident.

Mr. J. P. Booker of Winston Salem paid his son, Jack, of the Enterprise a short visit this morning. He was accompanied by J. P. Jr.

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Mr. Hopps, representing the City of Richmond, went before the commissioners and offered them a bargain in street cleaning equipment. His offer includes a five-ton Mack truck with sprinkler, washer, and drag with other necessary street cleaning equipment. For the entire outfit the City of Richmond is asking \$1500, which is about one-fifth the actual cost of such equipment. While the Board did not purchase, it was agreed that the equipment be sent here on 30 or 60 day approval. Shipment of the truck is to be made within the next few days and will be seen at work on the streets then.

Upon motion, the churches of the town are to receive current for lights and motors free of charge.

Permission was granted Frank Cartarphen to hold a dance here during the Christmas season. No date was mentioned.

A continuous round of extra special services are being planned and perfect for the Christmas season in the local Baptist Church of Williamston.

The Christmas sermon will be delivered on Sunday morning, December 19th, and the text will be, "We have seen His Star." Following this service, there will be a white gift Christmas service held at the church at twilight the same afternoon at 5 o'clock. For this service elaborate preparations are being made, and the general public, in and out of town, will be invited. The twilight service will conclude the service in the church for that day.

Thursday night, December 23, the church will give a Christmas tree for its boys and girls, at which there will be a short special program. There will be no other service until Sunday morning, December 26.

Sunday school that morning, as usual, followed by a unified church service at 10:30 o'clock, which concludes the church program for that day.

The only service held in the church the week after Christmas will be a midnight watch service promptly at 12 o'clock Friday night, which will be December 31st.

The first Sunday in January the morning service will be given over to an observance of the Lord's Supper. And at the evening hour the church will observe the first anniversary of the occupancy of the present pastor. This will conclude the round of special services for the holidays, and bring the church into the new year, where the first major program to be set forth will be a church school of missions, the first one to be held in this section.

### Town Team Will Meet Rocky Mount Tonight

The brand of basketball generally confined to the colleges of the State will be seen here tonight when the Williamston Town Team meets that of the Rocky Mount Y. M. C. A. at the Brick Warehouse.

The local team played the "Y" last year, and while the visitors won by a good majority the game was thoroughly enjoyed. It is generally conceded that the score tonight will be much closer than in the previous games.