

## KIWANIS CLUB TO POLL TAXPAYERS ABOUT PAVING

Letters Being Mailed to 300 Citizens of Town Today And Tomorrow

### ASKS THEIR OPINION

Question of Using Funds Derived from Power Plant Sale For Paving Being Much Discussed

The Kiwanis club questionnaire having to do with a possible solution to a paving program for the town will be mailed to the taxpayers here today and tomorrow, according to members of the committee appointed to handle the matter. The questionnaire is being mailed out solely to get the opinion of all the taxpayers as to what should be done about paving the town's sidewalks and a few of its principal streets.

One of the main questions asked in the questionnaire has to do with the handling of the fund received from the Virginia Electric and Power company for the town's light and power franchise. Should the town spend a portion of the \$75,000 for paving the sidewalks and principal streets or should the fund be used to pay off town bonds, will be answered by around 300 taxpayers. Special cards are being mailed along with the questionnaire, and it is hoped that every taxpayer will make known his stand in the matter.

A special act is being prepared for presentation to the legislature whereby the town may be given authority to spend a part of the \$75,000 for paving the sidewalks and most important streets. The bill has not been presented at this time, but it is understood that the measure will be offered for consideration in the near future. Should the bill pass, it is not to be understood that the town will spend a part of the fund, but that it has, legally, a right to do so should 51 per cent of the property owner and 51 per cent of the property on the streets on the paving program which the town does.

During the meantime, the matter is the center of discussion in many groups here. It is a known fact that some are bitterly against any paving at all while others are more liberal and want the sidewalks paved. Still others would pave the sidewalks and a few of the principal streets. The majority of the taxpayers or property owners has not been heard from, and it is the aim of the Kiwanis questionnaire to determine the views of the mass.

A citizen remarked yesterday afternoon that the town was, he believed, in better shape to undertake a paving program at this time than in years, he stating that with the practice of economy in the town's operation the paving could be done and the tax rate held the same or even decreased. He also pointed out that there are only a few towns now enjoying a tax rate as low as the one in effect here.

## New Laundry Opened

By J. H. Gurganus

A new laundry has been opened here by Mr. J. Henry Gurganus in the building next to the Blount warehouse on Smithwick street, and according to Mr. Gurganus there need be no more blue Mondays for the housewives who have had trouble with their laundry. Special equipment has been installed, and the new laundry is in a position to handle a large volume of business. Collections and deliveries will be in force, and service and quality work will feature the new business, Mr. Gurganus stated yesterday.

## WATTS THEATRE

**WEDNESDAY**

A First National Attraction

**KEN MAYNARD**

in

**"PHANTOM OF THE OPERA"**

Also

2-REEL COMEDY

HEAR THE PHOTOTONE

## Tag Sale at Local License Bureau To End Thursday

The sale of automobile license tags locally for the present year will be brought to a close Thursday, it was stated by Mr. J. D. Woolard, manager of the local license bureau, yesterday afternoon. After that day car owners who have not purchased the tags will order them direct from the revenue department in Raleigh. While there are a few car owners who have not bought the little blue and white tag, most of the cars are carrying the plates.

At the close of business last Saturday evening, the local bureau had sold 4,475 of the tags, and the sales yesterday and today are above the 50 mark. The "E" license led the list, 3,552 having been sold by the bureau up to Saturday evening. There were

459 truck licenses sold, varying in cost from \$15 to \$75. In the passenger car list 8 licenses costing \$40 each were sold. During the last two or three days, the sale of the tags generally increases, and according to the manager is expected to reach the 5,000 mark. Last year there were 5,000 tags sold here. While the business at the bureau is trailing that of the corresponding period for last, it is believed that more licenses will have been sold for 1929 than there were sold in 1928 for that year. The sale of tags from the department in Raleigh is understood to be larger this year than last, many people having bought them direct instead of calling at the local bureaus for them.

## MANY ATTEND FIRST SHOWS AT WATTS THEATRE

Visitors Here From Many Near-by Towns Express Admiration

### BIG CROWD MONDAY

Mayor Coburn Makes Short Address Before Program Last Night, Welcoming Visitors

The formal opening of Williamston's new \$35,000 theatre, the Watts, last Saturday and last night was a marked success when large crowds from miles around saw the first shows in the handsome building. Weather conditions were not very favorable for the occasion, but even then it was a success, indicating a splendid patronage in the future from people all over this section.

In the Saturday's program, Tom Mix featured and attracted capacity houses during the day, and last night Al Jolson in the "Jazz Singer" played to over 700 people. Scores of people, when asked how they liked the new playhouse and the picture, were very warm in their praise for such a splendid theatre, and foretold a success for the show. "The Jazz Singer" is on again tonight, and a large number are planning to see it.

In welcoming the new theatre and its patrons, Mayor R. L. Coburn stated last night that the new theatre was a public enterprise, one that the people will enjoy as a place for recreation and amusement. The mayor, in his short talk between the two evening shows, pointed out the value to be derived from such a fine theatre and called it a center where a splendid spirit and a congenial friendship might develop. The structure, one that the community and its people are proud to have in their midst, is the first in a long line of improvements here, according to the mayor who stated that a program of continued development is in line for the future. The fact that the theatre was the result of vision and work of home people was highly commended by Mr. Coburn who, in turn, stated that it was a community enterprise established for the recreation and amusement of all. He invited the visitors from other towns and communities to make themselves at home while here and asked them to come at any time.

The theatre, comfortable as any in the big cities, is running splendid pictures with appropriate music on the Phototone. The management has provided for every comfort and convenience, and one is assured a pleasant evening at the theatre.

## 23 Pupils On Honor Roll At Parnele Last Month

Meeting both attendance and scholastic requirements 23 pupils made the honor roll in the Parnele school for the month just closed, it was stated by the school's principal yesterday.

First grade: Wilbur Jones, Dorothy Mae Matthews, Irving Dixon, and Ronald Moore. Second grade: Garland Roebuck, Effie Taylor, and Hazel Manning.

Third grade: Hilda Nelson, Vernon Scott, William Taylor, Christine Dixon, Dorothy Mae James, Lora Williams, and Grace Corbett.

Fourth grade: Alton Sessoms, Elsie Lee Bullock, and Fannie Moore.

Fifth grade: Bernice Andrews, Deacle Roebuck, Lenwood Dixon, and Wilson Wynne.

Seventh grade: Delores James and Gladys Dixon.

## To Hold Services At Jamesville Once Month

Rev. C. B. Mashburn, pastor of the Robersonville Christian Church, was accorded a good hearing by the people of Jamesville and community last Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock when he filled his first regular appointment in the Christian church there. The minister will preach in Jamesville each fourth Sunday afternoon, it was announced.

## KADER LILLEY DIES AT HOME IN GRIFFINS

One of County's Foremost Farmers and Business Men

### NEARLY 82 YEARS OLD

Death Came As Result of Attack of Pneumonia; Large Crowd Attends Funeral Services Sunday

Taken with pneumonia two weeks ago, Kader Lilley, one of the county's most prominent farmers and business men, died at his home near here last Saturday morning. He would have been 82 years old the 12th next month.

Born near the place of his death, Mr. Lilley had farmed practically all of his life and during the past half-century he engaged in milling and the mercantile business, operating a lumber and planing mill, cotton gin and grist mill. He was one of the county's men who always followed safe methods in business and farming. He held to the principle that a steady, safe profit was always better than the quick, big profits, and for that reason he was very successful. In all his business transactions and social obligations or church attendance he was ever punctual and carried a prominent part in all.

The son of Eason Lilley and wife, Christina, Mr. Lilley was reared in the community of his birth, where he took advantage of the little schooling offered at that time. In 1867 he married Miss Lydia Frances Lilley who died two years later. He was married in 1872 to Miss Mary L. Griffin who died six years ago. The one child born to the first union died in infancy. He leaves five children by his last marriage, John Dawson, Sylvester and Eason Lilley, Mrs. John A. Griffin, Mrs. John W. Manning. Eighteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren also survive.

Mr. Lilley had also been a member of the Primitive Baptist church at Smithwicks Creek for a number of years. The funeral was at the home, where a large number of friends assembled. Elders J. N. Rogerson and B. S. Cowing conducted the services and interment was made in the cemetery of the family near the home.

## CHARGED WITH STEALING MEAT

Jack Everett Loses 100 Pounds of Meat When He Went Visiting

It cost Jack Everett, colored, just about 100 pounds of meat last Saturday night, when he, at the request of a friend, went calling upon acquaintances about the town. Just where they went it was not stated, but when Jack returned home, his meat was gone.

Henry Page and William Ellis, colored, had framed the plot, and while Jack was away, it is thought the two men slipped in Everett's kitchen and carried off the meat. It was Sunday morning before Jack discovered the meat shortage, and he had warrants issued at once. He recalled the happenings of the night before, and with the warrant a search was made at Page's home, where the meat was found in William Ellis' room. Page, seeing the officer, slipped out the rear door, and the meat with Ellis was captured.

At a hearing here before A. T. Crawford, justice of the peace, Page and Ellis were bound over the recorder's court today to face a charge of housebreaking and larceny.

## Little Ella Faye Bowen Died Friday Afternoon

Little Ella Faye Bowen, the 13-month-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Norman C. Bowen, died Friday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock after a lingering illness of pneumonia lasting three weeks. The funeral services were held in the home by Rev. B. S. Cowing and interment followed in the Bowen grave yard.

## TOBACCO PLANT BEDS RECEIVING ATTENTION NOW

Few Farmers Have Already Sowed Beds; Planting To Be General Next Week

### MUCH SEED TREATED

Although More Seed Is Being Planted Than Ever Before Little Increase In Acreage Is Expected

While a few farmers in this county have already started sowing tobacco seed for the 1929 crop, the planting will hardly get under way to any great extent before the latter part of this or early next week, depending somewhat upon the weather. According to reports from various sections, farmers are preparing and planting more and larger seed beds this year than in some time, not that they are planning an increase in the crop's acreage but as a safeguard against a plant shortage at transplanting time.

Many farmers say that where there are sufficient plants ready at the right time for transplanting, the crop is usually better than in those cases where several acres are transplanted one day and the rest transplanted later. There has been a shortage in plants, or rather several farmers have met with difficulty in getting seed this season, but it is understood that this, the first handicap, has been overcome and preparations are about complete for planting.

County Agent T. B. Brandon spent practically all day yesterday cleaning and treating seed, and during each of the past two weeks he will be in his office to carry on this work. Mr. Brandon says he has cleaned and treated more seed this year than in all the other years put together, almost, but in practically every case he was told that no increase in acreage was anticipated by the farmer. Very few have said they are planning to decrease the acreage, and judging from their remarks, the crop acreage will be about the same in the county this year as it was last.

Tobacco meetings have been held in several places over the county, indicating that the growers are striving to better the quality rather than increase the acreage.

Very few reports have been sent out from the other belts relative to the possible tobacco acreage this year, but it is believed that the acreage in this belt will be about the same as it was last season.

## FOOD SPECIALIST HERE THURSDAY

Representatives from All of Demonstration Clubs Expected at Meet

Eighteen women from the six home demonstration clubs over the county and from the American home departments of the several women's clubs are expected to meet here next Thursday morning when Miss Mary E. Thomas, nutrition specialist of Raleigh, holds a leaders' training school. The meeting will be held in the home demonstrator's office in the courthouse at 10:30 and the club representatives are urged to be there on time, if possible.

This is the second meeting Miss Thomas has held in the county, she having given a short training course here last year. Tomorrow the specialist will be in Plymouth where she is to conduct a school for the women of Washington county. After leaving here Thursday evening she will go to Washington to hold a third meeting in this part of the State.

## Kinchin Hardison Dies As Result of Paralysis

Kinchin Hardison, a farmer living in the Smithwicks Creek neighborhood, died at his home there this morning following a stroke of paralysis suffered last Friday.

Mr. Hardison was 48 years old, the son of the late Stanley and Louisa Hardison. He married Miss Anna Hodges who with one son, 13 years old, survives. The deceased also leaves five brothers and three sisters.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at the residence and interment will be made in the cemetery at the home place.

## STORE TO CONDUCT ITS FIRST SALE HERE

Beginning next Saturday, F. K. Hodges, one of the town's oldest merchants, will start an "opportunity sale" in his store. This is Mr. Hodges' first sale in the many years that he has operated a store here, and he is planning real bargains.

## Local Basketeers To Play Ayden Tonight

Two double headers appear on the local high school's basketball schedule for this week. The boys and girls leave this afternoon for Winterville where they will meet Ayden's two teams, and Friday night they go to Nashville to play return games with the school teams there.

## FIRE DESTROYS DWELLING HERE EARLY SUNDAY

Home of Mr. Theodore Roberson Is Practically Total Loss

### DAMAGE ABOUT \$6,000

Blaze Had Gained Much Headway Before Alarm Was Turned In; Plans To Rebuild

Fire, thought to have been started by rats in a pantry, practically destroyed the home of Mr. Theodore Roberson on Simmons Avenue here early Sunday morning. The flames were discovered by Mr. Roberson about 3:00 o'clock, when he awoke to find two rooms to the back of the house burning. The fire broke through the ceiling and spread all over the attic in a very few minutes and hardly before the alarm could be given the entire roof of the home was burning.

Night Policeman Allsbrooks saw the flames from Main Street and he turned in the general alarm, the big truck leaving the station two minutes after the siren had sounded. One stream of water was started immediately, but before the flames could be put under the control two more lines of hose were laid and it was a matter of only a few minutes then before the last spark was extinguished. Adjoining buildings caught, but no damage resulted to them as the flames were immediately checked by the firemen.

The loss, estimated to be around \$6,000, was partly covered by insurance, \$1,000 on the furniture and \$2,500 on the building. Very little of the furniture and household goods were removed from the building, the fire having gained such a big foothold before it was discovered that early arrivals were prevented from entering.

With the exception of a few of the larger timbers to the front, the house was a total loss and Mr. Roberson stated, after talking with building contractors, that he believed it would have cost less money to rebuild had the house burned completely up. At the present time Mr. Roberson and his family are living with their neighbors. He is planning to rebuild as soon as possible.

## CATCHES FIRST 1929 HERRING

Bob Wells Is Fisherman to Make First Catch This Year

The first herring to be caught in the Roanoke at this point this year was pulled from the cold waters last Saturday by Bob Wells, one of the river's best fishermen. The lone fish is doubtless the forerunner of the many millions that are expected up the river about Easter time.

Fishermen at Jamesville and below have made several catches during the past few days, according to a statement made by a citizen of that town yesterday.

Mr. Wells brought his fish to our editor who said it was more than worth the price paid, ten cents.

Bob stated it was very early for the herring to start its pilgrimage up the stream, but he also said that he hoped others would follow in large numbers. When asked about the possibilities of the season, Mr. Wells stated that signs were of little value in forecasting the outcome of fishing on the Roanoke. He did not mention the signs of the sun, moon or stars, but he did say high water would be necessary to bring the fish in large numbers. Mr. Wells has seen so many signs used in forecasting the possibilities of the fishing season, that he never counts the fish until they arrive. Numbers of signs are followed by many fishermen in predicting a good or a bad season, but the most popular one is the passing of the first thunder cloud south.

## ROBERSONVILLE SCHOOL OPENED

Number of Absences Only One-Half of 1 Per Cent, Principal Says

Closing down January 10 on account of the large number of influenza cases in the community, the Robersonville schools reopened yesterday with a good attendance, according to a statement made by Principal R. I. Leake last night. "The number of absences amounted to only one-half of 1 per cent," Mr. Leake stated. The professor was of the opinion that the influenza situation had about spent itself and that the school is in the now for real work.

"Most of our trucks run on hard surface, and the bad roads are not causing us very much trouble, as a whole," the principal said. "With favorable weather, our attendance should continue good," Mr. Leake added. The delay of a little over two weeks will put the closing of the school to about the middle of May.

## No County Commencement Will Be Held This Spring

### NEW FIRM WILL RUN WAREHOUSE

Leman Barnhill and W. R. Ingram Will Manage Farmers Warehouse

According to an announcement made yesterday, Messrs. Leman H. Barnhill, of Danville, Va., will operate the Farmers Warehouse here this year. The new partnership was effected a day or two ago, and will be well accepted by farmers and tobaccoists in this and adjoining counties.

Mr. Barnhill was a member of the firm of Bennett, Barnhill & Veasey here last year and prior to that time was connected in that house's operation for several seasons. Mr. Ingram has bought on the local market during the past several seasons and is well known to the farmers throughout this section. Prior to his work as buyer here, he successfully operated tobacco warehouses in Virginia and South Carolina, and is thoroughly acquainted with the business.

The members of the firm are planning a thorough work here this year and forecast a big business for their house and the tobacco market here.

### SEVERAL MINOR WRECKS SUNDAY

Two Visitors Hit Traffic Guide at Houghton Street Corner

It's very seldom that one bears of automobile wrecks occurring in the middle of a road; they used to be common only around ditches and telephone poles, but gradually the machines increased in number and collisions become frequent. Now the middle, the last safe spot, is now a dangerous ground as the wrecks of last Sunday night would indicate. The traffic sign in the middle of Main street at the Houghton intersection was trampled by two automobiles that night and Bruce Whitley hit a car parked in the middle of the road just this side of the fair grounds.

Young Whitley was coming into town about the midnight hour when he hit a Ford belonging to Haywood Brown, colored, and parked in the road. The drizzling rain and a fog prevented the boy's seeing the car until he was within a few feet of it, making it impossible for him to stop his car and avoid a wreck. Brown's Ford was cleared from the road by the blow and Whitley's car, a Ford roadster, had its bumper, a light, the horn and one fender torn off. Brown was slightly hurt on the leg, but others escaped injury.

Mr. Clark Nicholson, of Wilson, cut two of his tires almost to pieces when he ran over the traffic light at the Houghton street corner, but escaped without other damage occurring. A few minutes later, a Mr. Harrell, of Powellsville, ran over the same traffic sign and tore down two wheels of his new Ford and damaged two tires. The light was out in the sign, and the glare of the street light made it impossible for the two men to see the oval cap. Repairs were made at the town's expense and the travelers continued on their way. Mr. Nicholson to Norfolk and Mr. Harrell to his home.

### Everetts Playing Ahooskie At Everetts Tonight

According to an announcement made last night, the Everetts and Ahooskie basketball teams will meet for the first time this season at Everetts tonight in what promises to be one of the best games of the period. While the county boys are predicting a win over the Ahooskie lads, the boys from across the river are expected to offer strong opposition. The game is scheduled to start at 8 o'clock.

### Regular Meeting of Kiwanis Tomorrow

An urgent request is being made by the president of the Kiwanis club for members to attend the regular weekly meeting tomorrow at 12:30. Norman Harrison will have charge of the program, it was stated.

### 95-Year-Old Confederate Veteran Died Sunday

Colonel S. B. Taylor, one of the State's oldest ex-Confederate soldiers died at his home in Catherine Lake, Onslow county, last Sunday at the age of 95 years.

Mr. Taylor entered the Southern Army as a private and came out with the commission of Lieutenant Colonel. He was the first soldier to mount the parapet when the town of Plymouth was captured by General Hoke's division.

### TEACHERS ARE UNANIMOUSLY AGAINST IT

Expense Is Main Reason for Discontinuance of Usual Annual Event

### 60 TEACHERS AT MEET

No Provision Made in Budget and Schools Did Not Want to Finance The Undertaking

There will be no general school commencement in the county this year, according to action taken in a meeting of the Martin County Teachers' Association held here last Saturday afternoon. The teachers were unanimous in calling off the annual event, following a discussion of the expense and other allied problems. Heretofore, the annual commencement has been held at the expense of the county, but this year, in practicing strict economy, the county educational board withheld the item from its budget, and no funds were made available. According to a report, the commencement could have been financed by the various schools, but such procedure failed to meet the approval of the 50 or more teachers present at the meeting last Saturday, and the annual get-together of all the schools was omitted from the county schedule of school events, for this year at least.

Nothing was offered to substitute for the annual meeting of all the county's schools, and as for a comparison of school work done in the various sections of the county this school term, there will be none, it was unofficially announced yesterday.

As in its other work, the association appointed a committee to prepare resolutions concerning the appropriation of educational funds and methods of taxation and have been sent to Raleigh as the suggestions of a body of teachers. Mr. L. H. Davis, principal of the local school, was made chairman of the committee, and he will be assisted by Professors R. L. Leake, of the Robersonville schools; H. M. Ainsley, of Oak City; and A. L. Pollock, of Jamesville.

At the third meeting of the teachers this term, the importance of a library to the school was discussed. Teachers in several schools explained their library systems, and a motion was made by Professor R. L. Leake that one-half of 1 per cent of the total county budget be used for library purposes in the county's schools. A committee was appointed to study the library situation and offer suggestions to the county educational heads. Last Saturday the chairman of this committee stated that the investigation was not yet complete, but concrete facts would be given at the next meeting, the third Saturday in February.

This was the fifth meeting of the teachers for the 1928-29 term and was attended by approximately 60 teachers.

### Jamesville Basketball Teams Win 3; Lose 1

Jamesville's basketball teams added three victories to their long list last week when Creswell was turned back in a double header and when a double bill was divided with Plymouth.

Wednesday afternoon the county boys defeated Plymouth, 20 to 2; the Jamesville girls losing to those of the Plymouth school, 22 to 11. The game was played at Jamesville.

Friday afternoon, in a game played at Jamesville, Creswell's boys lost to those of Jamesville, 27 to 10. The Jamesville girls won 22 to 11 over Creswell's sextet.

Tonight at the Brick Warehouse here, Roper's two teams are meeting those of Jamesville for the first time this season. Friday, Jamesville's two teams are scheduled to meet those of Mackeys at Mackeys. Next week, according to the present schedule, Jamesville's boys are planning to meet Greenville's last quint here on the Brick Warehouse court. Jamesville won over Greenville here during the peanut exposition, but the count was evened last week when Greenville defeated the county boys in Greenville.

### Three Men Found Dead in Auto Near Washington

Three men, Travis Steppo, of Greenville; Ellis Cox, of Bath and Clarence Sheppard, of Washington, were found dead in an automobile on the Washington-Goose Creek road early last Saturday morning. The three men failed to get their car out of a sand bed, and to keep warm they left the engine running. At the coroner's inquest, it was found that escaping carbon monoxide was the cause of the deaths.

When found, the bodies of the three men were still warm, indicating that death had occurred only a short time before.