

Directors Chamber Of Commerce Hold Meet Here Friday

Organization Attracts Liberal Support from Number of Local Citizens

Meeting in special session in the Branch Banking and Trust Company building last Friday night, directors of the newly organized Williamston Chamber of Commerce adopted by-laws governing the operation of the organization as prepared by H. G. Horton and his committee. The meeting was well attended, and there was a marked interest in the organization and its schedule of activities. The by-laws were adopted without change.

In a preliminary report filed with the board by Secretary Billie Clark it was pointed out that a strong support had already been pledged to the organization, that an \$1,800 annual budget had been virtually subscribed. A large portion of that amount had already been turned over to the treasury by the members.

Realizing that now is the time to work harder and to push ahead despite general prospects, one director in the meeting directed an appeal to every business firm operator and every citizen to get behind the movement and lend it a liberal support. "We can't afford to stand idly by at this time. Business is improving in the country as a whole, and we can share it, if we get out and work," another director said. Every person in Williamston is urged to participate in the organization's support.

A schedule of duties was outlined to the secretary at the last week-end meeting, and the organization is rapidly launching a program of work that is certain to bear fruit and bring results. Various matters of importance were discussed including the appointment of a committee for keeping in touch with any plan to re-route U. S. Highway 17. It was pointed out that out-of-state cars are traveling through this point at the rate of about 300 each day, on an average. These travelers, as far as possible, will be contacted by the chamber of commerce through the secretary.

A committee for handling curtain and program advertising will be named to investigate the merits of this class of advertising, one director pointing out that the organization could save for many of its members an amount greater than the annual membership dues. A program of other activities for the organization will be reviewed by the secretary at a meeting of the members to be held on Friday evening of next week possibly in the county agricultural building.

Slogan Contest

A contest for an appropriate advertising slogan is being announced today by the organization. A prize of three dollars will be offered for the best slogan which should not be over three or four words in length. In this connection, the contestants may mention diversified industry, geographical location, natural resources, freight and bus facilities and so on. The slogan will appear on the organization's stationery. Entries in the contest should be mailed to Williamston Chamber of Commerce, Box 602, Williamston, N. C., not later than midnight, February 1. In cases where the same slogan is submitted and that slogan is adopted by the judges, the prize will be awarded to the first entry. The executive committee, composed of Messrs. G. H. Harrison, E. S. Peel, D. V. Clayton, B. S. Courtney, F. J. Margolis, Charles Bowers and C. B. Clark, will judge the entries.

Mrs. Harrison Dies Early Last Evening

Mrs. Margaret Christian Harrison died near here last evening at 7:15 o'clock following a long illness of cancer. She had been confined to her bed during the greater part of the past six months.

The daughter of the late John W. Coltrane and wife, Mrs. Harrison was born in this county 72 years ago. She married G. H. Harrison, who died a number of years ago. Mrs. Harrison spent most of her life in Williamston, but had lived near Williamston for the past year. She was a member of the Hassell Christian Church for many years.

Funeral services are being conducted from the home of her son, O. H. Harrison, on Pine Street here this afternoon at 2:30 by Rev. A. E. Purvis, of Hassell, assisted by Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, Presbyterian minister. Interment will follow in the Oak City Cemetery.

Besides her son here, she is survived by a step-son, C. E. Harrison, of Norfolk; a sister, Mrs. Bettie Stout, of Stockton, N. J.; and a brother, Jim Coltrane, of Williamston.

Charged With Entering Mill Commissary Here

LeRoy Davis, colored, was arrested late Sunday night for allegedly breaking into the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company's commissary on Washington Street here. Davis, in jail awaiting a hearing, is charged with the theft of a small bag of flour and a few cigarettes.

Interesting Farm Meeting to Be Held Here Tomorrow Night

In view of the far-reaching developments in the agricultural situation resulting from Great Britain's announced embargo on eastern North Carolina tobacco, the general meeting of the Farm Bureau Federation in the agricultural building here tomorrow evening at 7:30 o'clock carries unusual interest.

E. F. Arnold, secretary of the North is scheduled to address the meeting. Mr. Arnold was in Washington City yesterday for a discussion of the situation with congressmen and representatives of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. While it is not certain that the secretary can meet his appointment here, the office of the county agent here said today that his appearance is expected.

The secretary with J. E. Winslow, president of the North Carolina Federation, is certain to offer information that will be of marked interest to tobacco farmers and also to peanut growers. Developments in the farm situation are so rapid just now that it is difficult to keep up with them, but Mr. Arnold is expected to offer an interesting review of the recent events and possibly offer some encouragement in connection with the farm outlook in this section next fall. All members of the Farm Bureau and other farmers are urged to attend the meeting.

Farm Bureau Goes to President For Relief

MANAGER



Burgin Pennell, attorney, civic and religious leader, and past commander of the American Legion, will manage the campaign for Governor of A. J. Maxwell.

Native Of County Dies In Virginia

Elmer Roberson, a native of this county, died at his home in Hopewell, Va., early Sunday morning, the end coming as a result of an heart attack suffered a few days before.

Mr. Roberson, about 55 years of age, was born in Jamesville Township, this county, the son of the late James and Harriett Roberson. He was employed by the old Dennis Simmons Lumber Company in this county for a long number of years, moving to the Virginia city about 20 years ago following his marriage to Miss Leta Brown.

Funeral services were conducted at the late home yesterday afternoon, and interment followed in the Hopewell Cemetery.

Besides his wife he leaves two sons, Cushion and Densel Roberson, both of Hopewell. He also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Dare Brown, of this county; Mrs. Charles Bailey, of Washington; and Mrs. Eddie Stubbs, of Dunn.

Among those from this county attending the last rites were Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Manning, Mrs. H. T. Roberson, Mrs. Mittie Manning and son, N. R. Manning, Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Manning, Mrs. J. R. Peel, Mrs. Dare Brown and Messrs. Luther Peel, John A. Manning, P. H. Brown and Alexander Manning.

Place Tickets On Sale For Birthday Ball Here Friday

Tickets are being placed on sale here today for a gala birthday ball in the local high school gymnasium Friday night of this week, Chairman L. T. Fowden announcing today that he was looking for 150 couples to participate in the movement to raise funds for fighting infantile paralysis. Similar events are being held throughout the country on the President's birthday.

Paul Moore and his State College orchestra will play for the dance here, Mr. Fowden said in announcing the sale of tickets for the Junior Woman's Club. A charge of \$1.50 will be charged for the event which gets underway at 10 p. m. and lasts until 2 a. m.

In connection with the President's birthday ball, the March of Dimes will be handled by the various school principals in the county.

Community committees are in a special meeting here today for a review of the 1940 Triple-A program. Representatives of the State Extension Service are in charge of the meeting which will be concluded tomorrow.

The program before the meeting now underway is confined to agricultural practices, the speakers stressing the features of the Triple-A plan.

All Hope Is Not Yet Abandoned For Aid To Tobacco Farmer

Britain's Announced Embargo Stirs Immediate Action in Washington

All hope on the agricultural front in this country has not been abandoned, reports following quickly upon the heels of Britain's announced tobacco embargo stating that the situation is already receiving careful attention at the hands of high officials. The American Farm Bureau, quick to action, has already taken steps to get action, and North Carolina congressmen, including Lindsay Warren, have talked with Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

In addition to the action taken in connection with the embargo, the Farm Bureau group has good reason to rejoice at the recent statement made by President Roosevelt. Ruling out an appropriation of 300 million dollars for maintaining farm parity prices, the President now says that he has a plan to raise that amount.

The plan for financing the 300 million dollar parity program was revealed to Farm Bureau leaders when they conferred with the president on Secretary Wallace's bitter controversy "certificate plan," a reversal of the processing tax which was ruled invalid by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Roosevelt told the farm chiefs that he opposed Wallace's proposal because it was a tax on the consumer and wouldn't get to first base on Capitol Hill. He also made it clear that he is against any more deficit financing of farm benefits—in other words, issuing government bonds to obtain the money. That is what congress has done for the last two years instead of taxing.

The President warned his Farm Bureau callers that in the long run such congressional pussyfooting would arouse public resentment against the farmer, and that if agricultural benefits were to be continued it would be wise to meet the tax issue squarely.

His plan for doing that is to boost the income tax on the upper brackets. "I think you will agree with me," he said in effect, "that we can't put any more tax burdens on the low-income groups, either by broadening the tax base or by a consumer levy. I've always opposed consumer taxes because they put an unfair load on the poor, and I'm against any further broadening of the tax base because it is not consistent with the very sound principle of taxing according to ability to pay."

Hefty FBF President Ed O'Neal and his lieutenants heartily agreed with these views. They too are hostile to the "certificate plan" and know that deficit financing can't be continued indefinitely. But there was another reason why they liked Roosevelt's income tax proposal.

The Farm Bureau is crusading for full parity payments to corn producers, and the "certificate plan" would bar this, since only a small quantity of corn (about 15 per cent) is sold commercially. Most of it goes into stock feeding where it would get no certificates.

Despite White House and farmer hostility, Wallace is sticking by his guns. He knows he is up against a tough fight and is quietly putting on the heat for his plan everywhere he thinks it will count.

It has not been revealed before, but at the Farm Bureau Federation convention in Chicago last month Wallace held a secret meeting with a number of State agricultural officials. He told them flatly that there was no chance to get Congress to appropriate farm parity funds unless

(Continued on page six)

Volunteer Firemen Get Three Calls In Brief Period Here

Damage Done To B. A. Critcher and R. W. Bondurant Homes

Williamston's volunteer firemen were in demand Sunday and Monday when fire threatened three homes. While no extensive damage resulted, two of the fires were conquered only after stubborn fighting by firemen and others lending their assistance.

Using fire to thaw out frozen water pipes under the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Critcher on North Watts Street, a colored boy fired the house at 10:25 Sunday morning. The fire followed the pipes to the second floor and started burning between the floor joists. Smoke filled the house and the floors and floor coverings were damaged by water. No official estimates are available, but it is believed the damage will exceed \$100.

The call to the Critcher home was the first the local fire department had received during the recent cold weather. The fires were catching apparently, as a second call was received at 12:25 yesterday morning when fire threatened the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Bondurant on West Marshall Avenue. Starting from an over-heated chimney, the fire burned a large sill, charred much flooring and virtually ruined a sewing machine that stood near the chimney. Members of the family were forced out of the house by the dense smoke. Firemen and neighbor assistants were busy for quite a while bringing the fire under control.

Damage to the house was estimated in excess of \$200.

At 10:25 yesterday morning, the firemen were called to the home of Bell Williams on Wilson Street. A burning chimney filled the colored home there with smoke, but the fire was confined to the chimney and very little damage resulted.

Advance Plans For Raising Prices To Tobacco Farmers

State Farm Bureau Leaders in Conference with Authorities in Washington

Meeting with Agricultural Adjustment Administration authorities and congressmen from the tobacco areas, State Farm Bureau leaders this week mapped plans for bolstering tobacco prices this coming season.

The outlook for handling the tobacco situation is not as disheartening as the first reports from the British embargo would have many believe it to be. It has been pointed out that a production control program should prove of untold value in solving the problem now facing tobacco farmers.

Led by Edward O'Neal, the Farm Bureau proposed the following program: Allocation this year of commodity credit corporation funds to buy tobacco which ordinarily would be purchased by English companies. All British firms withdrew their buyers from tobacco markets last year, and the British recently announced that no tobacco would be imported from the United States. Commodity funds were used last fall to buy tobacco for the British companies.

Trade agreements with England, whereby American flue-cured tobacco would be exchanged for Turkish tobacco, Farm Bureau officials said this would prevent America from losing its British export trade.

(Continued on page six)

The Record Speaks . . .

Aggravated by snow and ice-covered roads, the Martin County highway accident record jumped toward a new high mark last week-end when the motor vehicles skidded, turned over and crashed. Fortunately, the period boasted no serious accidents, but the property damage loss was advanced to a sizable figure.

While carelessness did not figure at all in most of the accidents, ice-covered highways proved themselves dangerous for travel, the facts clearly indicating that it is advisable to stay at home during such periods.

The following tabulations give a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time:

Third Week Comparison		
1940	1939	Accidents In'd Killed Dam'ge
1940	6	3 0 \$850
1939	0	0 0 000
Comparison To Date		
1940	9	5 0 \$700
1939	0	0 0 000

(Continued on page six)

Health Head Speaks to Parent-Teacher Group

Dr. John Williams Outlines Program Health Activities

Compares Health Conditions In County Now With Those Of Few Years Ago

Making his first public address following his appointment as Martin County Health officer the first of this month, Dr. John W. Williams outlined a program of health activities for the county and compared present health conditions with those of a few years ago before the regular January meeting of the Williamston Parent-Teacher association. Dr. Williams practiced medicine in this county a number of years before entering public health work, and his comparison of health conditions then with those of today is interestingly advanced in his remarks to the parents and teachers, as follows:

Years ago, Nell Battle Lewis wrote "The only pleasure a farmer tenant's wife gets out of this life is walking five miles, with a baby under each arm, to the yearly meeting of her church house to hear them sing. On the other side of Jordan there is rest for the weary." Practicing medicine in your county, seeing working folks, white and black, hoe cotton, pick tobacco beds, grow, cure and grade tobacco, prepare meals and then have to sit up with sick folk, I decided my time would be better spent in teaching them to prevent preventable diseases (and most of them were) than in trying to why not let friends benefit by it in call me—which in some cases was—most ill—so I left home and began to dig ditches to prevent malaria, build privies to prevent typhoid, diarrheas and dysenteries and to clean up to prevent all filth and saliva borne diseases and now on my return I am reminded of the little Negro soldier coming home from France for he too had been in a strange land among people who were not his kind, he too had dug ditches, built latrines, done the dirty work of cleaning up and been damned if he did so when his boat swung into N. Y. harbor and he saw the Lady of Liberty holding high her torch to all who seek a haven, he was heard to remark, "Take down your lamp, honey, I see come home." Now this little Negro has not come to settle down because he has to earn his keep and he realizes there are things to be done but he does feel that in this haven it can be done easier and more pleasant among friends of his kind—and if he has learned anything from experience instead of queer folk in inner rings who quarrel and quibble.

Before I go into the real object of my appearance here today, I would like to remind you or perhaps in your case, to tell you a few things of years ago and how changes have come: I suspect I was the first man in this county to try to prevent typhoid fever with a vaccine (our only defense other than sanitation). M. A. James gave me forty-five dollars (36 of which was cost to vaccine) to protect himself, wife and child. (Today, all health work in the entire county costs only 20 cents per capita. Not another dose did I give until years later when the state began to make it. The disease was everywhere, no one was interested because it was human life we were trying to save. Now listen to this—I know I was the first medical man to ever jump into a herd of cholera infected hogs and demonstrate the efficiency of cholera serum, in saving a year's supply of meat. I never did this but once either, but immediately hundreds took up the practice and kept Barnhill's ice box full of the means to prevent a hog from dying while my poor cupboard was bare of even smallpox virus. I was failing my community in preventive medicine, perhaps, and again perhaps my state and county were failing us. There was not a sanitary privy in my territory including my own but I do claim credit for having a covered well. I made the remark at Cross Roads church house that 50 per cent of the people out there had hookworms and I could have starved to death for need of practice for all they cared because I said they were wormy. Several years later, Rockefeller Foundation prayed that 80 per cent of all in that section were sufferers. Not a drop of milk was untested and graded milk was unheard of. No mechanical refrigeration and very little ice. No doctor could collect for typhoid because of ice bill. With this sanitation, you ask what was the mortality and morbidity in intestinal disease. I don't know, but I do know I made a good living prescribing Bugara tablets for diarrheas in babies yet I had no way of telling the potency of the tablets before prescribing or vital statistics to tell me at the end of the year in how many cases they failed. We had no

(Continued on page six)

HEALTH OFFICER



Dr. John W. Williams, just recently appointed to head the Martin County Health Department, is rapidly formulating an extensive program in the interest of public health in this county.

Native Of County Dies In Plymouth

Charles Simpson, a native of this county, died at his home in Plymouth last Thursday night at 8:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. While he had been ill for some time, his condition was not considered critical until a short time before his death.

The son of the late Joshua L. and Armanda Griffin Simpson, he was born in Jamesville Township, this county, 61 years ago. In early manhood he was married to Miss Mary Baynor, of Griffins Township. About a quarter of a century ago the family moved to Plymouth where he was employed by the Plymouth Box and Panel Company for a number of years.

Funeral services were conducted in the Plymouth Christian Church last Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock by his pastor, Rev. N. A. Taylor, who was assisted by Rev. W. B. Harrington. He had been a member of the church there for nearly 25 years. Interment was in the Baynor Cemetery in Griffins Township, this county.

He is survived by seven children, Mrs. Luke Paul and Miss Violet Simpson, both of Plymouth; Mrs. Henry Ange and Mrs. Johnnie Sanford, both of Norfolk; Mrs. Hazel Leary and John Cecil Simpson, both of Philadelphia, and C. A. Simpson, of Wilmington. He also leaves two brothers, Messrs. Gray Simpson, of Dardens, and Golden Simpson, of Washington County; and one sister, Mrs. Will Byrum, of Dardens.

Man Is Charged with Raiding Meat House

Tommy Ryan, colored man, was caught hiding in Farmer Robert Everett's smokehouse in Poplar Point, near here, last Sunday afternoon. Officers, making the arrest, believed Ryan was making plans for a raid on the storage house that night.

Robert Brown, tenant on the farm, went to the smokehouse to get some meat for his supper and saw Ryan hiding behind a barrel.

Ryan waived examination at a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell here yesterday afternoon and was returned to jail in default of a \$300 bond. He will face trial in the superior court on March 18. Ryan was said to have looked to Mr. Everett, the owner of the smokehouse, to stand his bond.

Dries Lumber In Tobacco Barn In County

Where there's a will there's a way, Farmer Walter Gardner demonstrated last week-end when he set to work to rebuild his home which was destroyed by fire a few weeks ago.

Cutting timber from his land and sawing it with a small mill, nearby, the farmer, unable to find space in a regular kiln, piled his lumber in a tobacco barn and turned on the heat. With the promise of neighborhood help, the young farmer plans to build a comfortable home at a record low price.

Tobacco barns, built principally for curing leaf, are being used for other purposes, many farmers successfully using them for curing sweet potatoes. Mr. Gardner is one of few farmers in this county to convert a tobacco curing barn into a dry kiln for drying lumber.

Several Are Hurt In Series Of Auto Wrecks Last Friday

Property Damage Approximates \$600 in Five County Accidents

Several persons were hurt, none seriously, and a property damage approximating \$600 resulted from a series of automobile accidents on ice-covered roads in this county last Friday. Patrolman Whit Saunders was kept busy all day Friday and cleared up the last wreck at four o'clock Saturday morning. Reports from other counties in this section told of numerous wrecks, but as far as it could be learned none of them was fatal.

The first of the five wrecks reported in this county was reported near the Sunny Side Inn on the Washington Highway at 11 o'clock Friday morning or about an hour and a half after the heaviest snow of the year started falling here. Mrs. David B. Holland, 1115 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, N. Y., was slightly cut on her forehead and suffered a back injury when the car driven by her son, Robert Holland, skidded and turned over. The driver and his father were not hurt. Damage to the car, a New Buick sedan, was estimated at \$100. Returning from a vacation in Florida, the party remained here that night and continued to their New York home the following morning.

Mrs. Carl Lee Winters, 3130 Connecticut Avenue, Washington City, was painfully bruised and suffered a rib injury, when the car in which she was riding skidded and turned over on U. S. No. 17 near the Robert Lee Perry farm Friday afternoon about 3:30 o'clock. Mr. Winters, driver of the Buick sedan, was not hurt. Damage to the car was estimated at \$300.

Patrolman Saunders and highway forces found a difficult task in clearing an auto-truck wreck from the highway near Corey's Cross Roads on the Washington Highway Friday night and Saturday morning. A truck driven by Homer Morgan and owned by Earl Warrington, of Greenwood, Delaware, was in a head-on collision with a Dodge car driven by Preston C. Durant, 412 W. Second Street, Washington, that night about 10:30 o'clock. No one was hurt, and the damage was estimated at only \$135 to both machines. Durant agreed to pay the damage to the truck. Loaded with 200 crates of Florida oranges, the truck was stuck fast in a ditch and a wrecker and a large highway truck could not move it until half of the load was pulled from the wreckage. It was thought that much of the fruit was damaged during the long wait. Morgan and Warrington continued to Delaware late Saturday evening after repairs were made to the truck.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Gray Wynne and their two young children, of Scotland Neck, escaped unhurt when their car, a Plymouth coupe, turned over just southeast of Williamston Friday afternoon about 3 o'clock. Skidding on the ice-covered road, the car made one complete turn and stopped on its side. The machine, damaged to the extent of about \$50, was righted and the members of the party continued to their home.

No official report could be had, but it was learned that an automobile turned over on Highway 125, near here, during the week-end. No one was hurt and little property damage resulted, according to information received yesterday.

John Ellison, Jamesville colored man, escaped injury and his car was only slightly damaged when it turned over in the Piney Woods section of Jamesville Township last Friday.

Local Church Holds Brotherhood Dinner

The third annual Brotherhood Dinner of the Disciples of Christ will be held in the Woman's Club on Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock. This service will be held in conjunction with dinners held all over the nation when members of the church come together and fellowship in greetings from other churches of the state, nation and the ten foreign fields in which the Disciples work. In addition to the local program there will be a broadcast over Station WPTF at 7:30. This broadcast will include a message from the International President of the Disciples of Christ, H. B. McCormick, and a solo by Dr. Fred W. Wise, who directed the music in Richmond last year. The entire membership is being urged to be present along with Disciples living in the town.

The supper begins at 7 o'clock.

Suffers Broken Arm In Fall Near Here Saturday

Charles Jackson, 77-year-old farmer, fell on the ice and broke his arm last Saturday morning. The old gentleman was walking to town when he slipped and fell near the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Whitley on the Hamilton Road.