

## Funeral Services For W. H. Coburn Held Here Sunday

### Well-Known Business Man and Judge Died in Hospital Friday Evening

Funeral services were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Harrison here last Sunday afternoon for W. Hubert Coburn who died in a Rocky Mount hospital last Friday evening at 8:34 o'clock, the young man's death bringing to a premature close a promising career as a lawyer, judge and business man. Rev. John W. Hardy, rector of the Episcopal Church, assisted by Rev. B. T. Hurley, Methodist minister; John L. Goff, pastor of the local Christian Church, and Rev. W. F. Wiegman, Christian minister of Dunn and a former local pastor, conducted the last rites. The floral offering was one of the largest ever seen here, and an unusually large crowd coming here from all over this and surrounding counties and Virginia was present to pay tribute to his memory. Interment was in the Harrison family plot in the local cemetery.

The son of the late William Thompson and Ann McClosky Coburn, he was born in the Dardens community of this county 38 years ago, the 17th of last month. Mr. Coburn spent his early life on the farm, doing as a young man into defense work at Newport News during the first World War. Following the close of the war, he traveled extensively, going to Europe and later to Australia. In the early twenties he studied at the University of North Carolina, and later in the Wake Forest law school. Passing the State Bar examination, he formed a law partnership with his brother, Robert L. Coburn, in Williamston, and was admitted to the county bar in September, 1929. He was appointed solicitor of the Martin County Recorder's Court in December, 1932, which post he held for six years. In 1940 he was elected judge of the county court. Partly on account of failing health, he virtually retired from his law partnership and took over the office of general manager of the Williamston Package Manufacturing Company.

In his various roles as lawyer, judge and business man and as a citizen he made many lasting friendships. As a judge, he tempered justice with mercy, extending sympathy to those in trouble but at the same time maintaining respect for law and order. During the brief time he meted out justice to his fellow-man, much was accomplished for the betterment of society, and observers at the bar saw in him the promise of an able jurist. In his dealings with his fellow-man as judge, lawyer and business man, he always tried to see the other fellow's viewpoint, and when his work was completed even those whom he condemned and those who worked under him, both white and colored, recognized him as a friend.

During the latter part of 1936 his health began to fail him, and a few months later his right leg was amputated in an effort to check a serious disease. His condition improved, and despite his affliction he still maintained a cheery disposition and found life worthwhile. When other men complained about the existing state of affairs, he would look on the bright side and never turn back. On Monday of last week, he suffered a sudden relapse and was removed to the hospital within a few hours. The call for the removal of his re-

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## Little Damage Done By Fire Last Friday

Starting in the boiler room, fire did little damage to the Williamston Package Manufacturing Company plant near the river here last Friday evening at 8:45 o'clock. One of the conveyors carrying fuel from the plant to the boiler room was burned slightly but repairs were made without much cost. Some fuel was burned, but the loss was negligible. The main plant was not endangered.

Its origin not definitely known, the fire was burning deep under the veneer fuel and much time was required in raking out the stoves and bringing the fire under control.

## Mule Is Killed In Highway Accident

A young mule belonging to Mrs. E. L. Lewis of this county was killed in a highway accident on Highway No. 11 between Hassell and the county line last Saturday evening about 9 o'clock. The animal, breaking from the farm lot, ran into the side of a truck driven by James L. Lawrence, of Oak City. Lawrence ran his truck into the ditch in an effort to miss the mule. Striking a rear fender, the animal was thrown to the pavement, the fall apparently breaking his back. A tenant, using a highway patrolman's gun, killed the mule with one shot.

No one was hurt and very little damage was done to the truck. The mule was valued at \$200.

## Record-Size Corn Crop About Harvested In Martin County

The harvesting of what is believed Martin County's greatest corn crop is just about complete, only a few farmers here and there stating that the harvesting task is not quite complete.

Estimated to range as high as one million bushels, the crop created a storage problem on many farms. According to several reports, numbers of farmers had to have their crops shucked and shelled so the available storage would take care of it. Then there were some few farmers who left a portion in the fields for the hogs. Quantities of corn have been stored in packhouses and other farm buildings, one report stating that a few farmers have actually grumbled because they had so much corn to gather and because their storage facilities were not adequate to care for the bumper harvest.

As far as it could be learned there was no material acreage increase in the county, the farmers explaining that the yield reached into bumper production figures. With the possible exception of five or six farmers, every grower in the county has an increase in the crop. Back yonder in the summer Farm Agent Tom Brandon said that with a very, very few exceptions there wasn't a sorry hill of corn in the county, and he predicted at that time that the large yield would crack the cribs.

Accurate figures are not available, but it is estimated that the 1941 yield is several hundred thousand bushels greater than it was last year. During the past several years, the county has on an average produced between six and seven hundred thousand bushels of corn.

## Town Commissioner Appointment Delayed

### DIES IN HOSPITAL



Taken ill the early part of last week, W. Hubert Coburn, well-known county citizen, judge and business man, died in a Rocky Mount hospital last Friday evening.

## Red Cross Drive In This Chapter To Be Continued for Week

### Less Than One-third of the Original Quota Has Been Raised

Raising hardly one-third of its quota, the Red Cross Membership Committee, headed by Mrs. J. A. Eason, will continue in this chapter another week, it was announced yesterday. While the drive has received a willing response in some quarters, numbers of persons have reluctantly contributed and some are even said to have refused to support the humane organization.

Believing that the sad plight of millions in troubled and war-torn countries was known to our people, a marked effort has been made to call attention to the great need for Red Cross support. However, authentic reports are heard from day to day telling of starvation and want.

If announcing the continuance of the drive, Mrs. Eason stated that the Red Cross booth would again be maintained in front of Clark's Pharmacy next Saturday, that everyone is urged to make some contribution.

Jamesville, canvassed by Mrs. Camille Fleming Turner, reported last week-end a total of 35 memberships. Bear Grass previously reported \$25. The two districts outside of Williamston are the only ones to make a report. A few rural citizens have left their memberships with the canvassers here. Reports from all the local canvassers have not been filed, but the most optimistic predictions point to less than 500 members.

Memberships not previously reported go to the following: Clarence Wallace, Walter Brown, W. W. Walters, Clyde Brown, Clarence Sexton, Herbert Sexton, E. H.

### BOOKMOBILE

Making its third tour of the county last week, the B-H-M bookmobile reported an increased patronage to set a new record in its operations to date. Twenty-eight new patrons were added to the list, boosting the number to 154, or about an average of six for each stop. These figures do not include the circulation in the schools. Last week the traveling library circulated 743 books.

The bookmobile will not make another tour of the county until the week after Christmas.

## Parking Limit Will Not Be Enforced by Police Order Here

### Cemetery Project Breathing Again in Special Order To Town Mayor

Formally accepting Commissioner Luther Peel's resignation, the town board of commissioners in regular session last evening delayed appointment of a successor, the group agreeing to wait a while and give the appointment some thought. No formal applications for the position were filed with the board, but it is reliably understood that Mrs. Fannie Staton would consider the appointment. Unofficial reports state that the names of several citizens living in former Commissioner Peel's neighborhood have been mentioned among the list of possible appointees. No action is expected before the next regular meeting when the board will likely name a successor to Mr. Peel who resigned to accept the post of county tax collector.

While the meeting touched on several vital topics, it was an uneventful one. Going before the commissioners, Messrs. D. V. Clayton and W. O. Griffin, representing the local Chamber of Commerce, asked for a one-hour parking limit in the business districts for Williamston cars. The spokesmen explained that the voluntary agreement between business and professional men to restrict parking in the specified zones was about to bog down, that the agreement had even been defied by irate taxpayers. "They are trying to open up a Pandora box," the mayor whispered and the proposal was frowned down. When the authorities offered no special police order, any relief for the congested parking situation will have to be advanced by those cooperating souls who cheerfully go about the task while the obstinate reap the advantage. While pointing out that the parking situation is bad everywhere and that it is no worse here than anywhere else, the board did agree to call out the police for detailed parking duty on the streets. Cards are to be printed, calling improper parking to the attention of car drivers, but no threat is behind the card.

Asking permission to hold Boy Scout meetings in the fire department quarters, Scout leaders were offered the use of the summer bath house at the municipal swimming pool. It is possible the youths unintentionally would tamper with the fire-fighting equipment.

Something was said about widening Broad Street, the narrowest thoroughfare in town, but no order was given for widening the street running just back of the cemetery.

New life was breathed into the cemetery project when Mayor J. L. Hassell, and continued this through after years to the time of his death; I did not then, nor am I certain now of a sure knowledge of what his business was.

A conception at that time would have been that he was possessed of much time to go and come as he saw fit; never hurrying; never worrying; ever pleasant; talking of things worth while; but what was his business, I cannot now recall ever having known. I seem now to conceive that he might have been the county's Probate Judge, but to assert it, I cannot.

## Four Charged With Shooting Deer Dogs

Said to have acted with no good reason at all and advancing cruelty in a base form, four colored men in Griffins Township were formally charged yesterday with shooting three deer dogs in that district a few days before.

Warrants were issued yesterday morning for the arrest of Tighman Hodges, "Butch" Roberson, Wallace Moore and George Corey, Jr.

They are charged with shooting and killing two dogs belonging to Arthur Roberson and Alfred Ellis. A third dog belonging to Miss Connie Baynor was attacked but the shots missed him. The Ellis dog was valued at \$50, the owner having refused that amount for him just a short time before the killing. One report stated that the brutes shot one dog and then clubbed him over the head.

## REMEMBRANCES

By CHAS. SMALLWOOD  
Williamston, N. C.  
DURING 1870's and '80's

Mr. Ray was long, lean and lanky; walked with a sling which spelled surety. He could tarry in his trek, lift a foot and place it over his shoulder back of his head. Such a feat was a wonder to me, and made Mr. Ray a wonder in my eyes. He was not to bless Williamston with a full quota of prescribed years, for he died at middle age a year or so after my arrival, and I attended his funeral.

All illumination of Williamston, during these days, was obtained by means of kerosene lamps. Both at home and the drug store a certain style student's lamp prevailed. Both oil tank and burner with shade, sat each on an end of a cross-arm, which raised or lowered on the rod of a pedestal, fastening at various heights by means of a thumb-screw. The "Argan" burner, by name, was provided with a round-wick, and long slender chimney, and gave a light more satisfactory to Mr. Biggs, than any other he could find; and keeping these lamps clean and polished bright was a part of my pleasant duties about the store.

I never married and kept house until after reaching middle age, and on coming back to Smallwood Place from living out in the world, and where there was no electric current, Sister Sallie looked up one of these lamps, which I had cleaned and filled so often during those golden-days, and gave it to us, and which we still have; but wicks and chimneys are obsolete; but I still have one chimney left, and can rig an electric wire and bulb so as to still operate the old timer.

While in Baltimore on his stock-buying trip at the time of the big fire at home, Mr. Biggs treated himself to a new gold watch and chain. I say—"And chain" because a convention of the days that were then, called for both; one to show-off the other, and to have a new watch without a new chain meant that you had an old chain, which maybe because of its past, was by you more prized, more loved, and more trusted to show off a new watch than any new chain could possibly be.

Well, Mr. Biggs' needs required both, and he must have paid cash for them, or he most likely would have felt too poor, after coming home to his business in ashes, and returned them to the Baltimore merchant for account balancing. But he retained the new watch and chain, and made me the proud possessor of his old, perfectly good, silver one; saying—"I reckon it's a little large and heavy for so big-a-little man, but maybe you'll grow to it in time. And immediately I felt myself swell six inches on all six sides.

It took no calculation of cube-root to perform that miracle, the watch and chain had done it. And I would not have swapped for the new ones Mr. Biggs was wearing; nor have I ever since. The chain is gone, I know not where, but the watch is still with me, and I don't believe I have ever grown a bit bigger than at the moment of its bestowal.

The thought of a strange thing occurs to me today: Did you ever, reader, live next door to an agreeable acquaintance who might be even a good friend, and for years and years not know what his business was? This is not apt to happen with residents of a small town, but often does in big cities; and the fact that Williamston was a small town, and Judge Crawford a near neighbor, and father of the Crawford boys, my school chums and companions, and one of the "regulars" at the drug store who came often and stayed long, and noticed and talked to me as congenially as did Mr. Walter Hassell; and continued this through after years to the time of his death; I did not then, nor am I certain now of a sure knowledge of what his business was.

A conception at that time would have been that he was possessed of much time to go and come as he saw fit; never hurrying; never worrying; ever pleasant; talking of things worth while; but what was his business, I cannot now recall ever having known. I seem now to conceive that he might have been the county's Probate Judge, but to assert it, I cannot.

My object in mentioning this is the strangeness with which the fact appears to me today, with my then and after cordial acquaintanceship

## REFERENDUM

Martin County farmers along with others throughout the cotton belt will vote on Saturday of next week to continue or discontinue cotton quotas for 1942. Very little interest has been expressed in the forthcoming referendum, and there is some doubt if a large vote will be cast. At a meeting of community committeemen, farmers and business men in the county agricultural building next Thursday morning at 10 o'clock the importance of continuing the quotas will be stressed. All farmers and business men are urgently requested to attend. Martin County voted 1,030 for and none against quotas for 1941.

## Christmas Lights To Burn On Local Streets During Holiday

Advised the ban on out-door lighting had been lifted, the board of town commissioners last evening completed plans for Christmas lights in the business district here this holiday season. The lights will be installed next week and are to be turned on about Wednesday, December 10. The lighting scheme will be virtually the same as it was last year.

In connection with the street lighting program and the holiday decorations, the local Chamber of Commerce today announced contests for \$45 in trade and cash prizes. The amount has already been raised by Commerce Secretary R. H. Smith and possibly the Woman's Club will be asked to handle the contest details. In the No. 1 contest, \$19 in prizes are being offered the winners

in the municipal lighting group which includes the county courthouse, town hall and municipal water tower. The first prize will be \$10; second, \$5.50, and third, \$3.50. A total of \$13 will be offered in each of the doorway and yard tree lighting contests. The prizes are to be awarded as follows: 1st, \$7.50; 2nd, \$3.50, and 3rd, \$2.00.

Many new innovations have been introduced in the lighting arrangements by the three contest groups in years past, and it is generally believed that elaborate plans will be advanced this year to brighten the dark spots and add a bit of glowing cheer to the holiday season. Much comment has been heard from travelers from distant states about the municipal lighting arrangements.

## R. L. Coburn Named County Court Judge

### C. D. Carstarphen To Supervise 1942 County Tax Listing

### Commissioners in Regular Meet Monday; Supervisor to Name List-takers

In their regular session here yesterday, the Martin County commissioners appointed Attorney Robert L. Coburn judge of the recorder's court to complete the unexpired term of his brother, W. Hubert Coburn, who died in a Rocky Mount hospital last Friday following a brief illness. While not a candidate for the position, Attorney Robert Coburn will accept the appointment, it was learned. The term expires a year from now, and candidates who would take over the post in 1942 are expected to enter the primary next May. Pointing out that one need not be a lawyer to occupy the recorder's seat, Farmer Lucian J. Hardison applied for the position. No other applications were formally filed, but it is understood that several persons would have considered the appointment.

Meeting about the usual time, the commissioners perfected the organization of the board for another year. No changes in the line-up were effected and Mr. Robert Lee Perry continues as chairman and E. S. Peel was renamed as county attorney. Much time was spent studying reports, the board late in the afternoon discussing a proposed order calling for a complete written report from the county health officer each month. A resolution was passed some time ago calling for the monthly report, it was pointed out, and the discussion was ended. The board did approve a \$40 attorney's bill for services rendered by H. G. Horton in the cases brought by the health department against D. M. Roberson some time ago. It was pointed out that the county prosecuting attorney could not be found at the time.

C. D. Carstarphen, a member of the board, was appointed upon motion of Commissioner Joshua L. Coltraine, county tax supervisor. The board is leaving the appointment of tax list-takers up to the supervisor, but several applications for the various jobs were filed with the new appointee. Accepting the position, Supervisor Carstarphen explained to the commissioners that he would do his best to have an equitable and fair tax list prepared, and asked the board to support his efforts and those of the list-takers. Comparatively few applications were filed for the list-taker positions, and it is likely that changes in the personnel will be effected. The supervisor will name the list-takers shortly and a meeting will be held some time on or before the fourth Monday for a discussion of personal property values. No date for the meeting of list-

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## Youth Charged With Speeding On Streets

Said to have been speeding through Main Street here early one morning last week, Leslie Coltraine, young white man, was carried before Mayor J. L. Hassell last week-end and taxed with the \$5.50 case costs.

Driving a borrowed car, Coltraine was said to have aimed his car down the street and went by Officer John Roebuck traveling about 60 or 65 miles an hour. Turning around at the river, the speedster "shot" his car up the street even faster than he did on the first trip. The officer waved for him to stop and sounded his whistle, but Coltraine could not be troubled. The owner of the car learned that Coltraine had been speeding and he reported to police to clear himself. Officer Roebuck said that the car was running so fast that he did not have time to read the license numbers.

### APPOINTEE



Robert L. Coburn, local attorney, was appointed judge of the Martin County Recorder's Court by the county commissioners on Monday. The appointment came when the post was made vacant by the death of his brother, Mr. W. H. Coburn.

## November Popular Period For Cupid In Martin County

### Marriage Licenses Issued To Twenty-eight Couples Last Month

June may be the month of brides in other places, but next to December the month of November is the popular period for Dan Cupid. Over a period of ten years more couples have married during the month of November than in any other period with the exception of December and the difference between the license issuances in those months is not very great. And strange as it may seem the number of marriages in November has held to a reasonably high figure during nearly every year for the past ten. The number dropped to twelve in 1931, but since that time it has climbed to reach a high peak of 39 in 1936.

Last month there were 28 licenses issued by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger in this county, 18 to white and ten to colored couples. In eight of the eleven past months, the number of licenses issued to white couples has been as great or more than the issuance to colored couples, and it is fairly apparent that the number of licenses issued to white couples will show the largest gain over the colored issuance than at any time in recent years.

Licenses were issued last month, as follows:

**White**  
John Stanley Ayers, of Hamilton, and Charlotte Brooks Ayers, of Bath. Sam Bunting, of Colerain, and Pattie Winberry, of Williamston. Charlie Gilbert Mobley and Georgia Anne Phelps, both of Plymouth. Robert Woodrow Manning, of Bethel, R.F.D. 1, and Ethel Mae Powell, of Palmyra, R.F.D. 1.

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### NEW LICENSE TAGS

A moderate rush was reported yesterday when the new 1942 State automobile license tags were placed on sale by the Williamston bureau of the Carolina Motor Club in the office of the Chamber of Commerce on Washington Street. Starting at 453,001, the first numbers went to Hoke Roberson, A. B. Ayers and Calvin Ayers in order. The bureau sold tags for 82 cars, three trucks and four trailers, the first-sale sale being the largest on record.

## British Encounter Serious Reverses In Libyan Struggle

### French-German Collaboration Is Blow; Far East Crisis Is Nearing Climax

Following very favorable reports coming from the Allied forces in Russia and North Africa last evening, news of discouraging proportions was heard today in Africa and occupied France with the sword rattlers in the Far East standing idly by to watch the outcome of the struggle in Russia.

About the only encouraging news came out of the Rostov sector in southern Russia where a mass retreat by German soldiers continues with added fury. The Germans admit their plight at the gateway of the Caucasus; but they claim that Russia is only trading Moscow for the small town, Recapturing Rostov a few days ago, the Russians found several thousand women and children murdered in the city while the Nazi beasts occupied it. The findings there drove the Russians into a more determined fight, and the Germans paid in life and equipment.

While Rostov was being cleared of the invading hordes, the threat to Moscow continues possibly even more serious than ever. Germans claim they can see the city with high-powered field glasses, and while the Russians admit their plight is serious before Moscow they reiterated that pledge today that the city shall not fall.

Over in Africa the Germans last night and early today dealt the British a serious blow when they broke through and recaptured Rezegh and renewed the siege on Tobruk. The Germans claim the capture of three British generals and several thousand men. Britain is bringing up reinforcements at Tobruk under the protection of her fleet in an effort to turn the tide which the Axis powers claim is now definitely in their favor.

A diplomatic blow to the Allied cause is virtually admitted as a result of German and French collaboration in occupied France yesterday. It is believed that old Marshal Petain sold his country out to the Germans at a conference with Reichsmarshal Hermann Goerring yesterday. The details of the conference have not been made public but it is fairly certain that French bases in Africa will be turned over to Germany's world power seekers and that the remnants of the French fleet will be used in conveying German and Italian supplies to Africa with the possibility that the Axis powers will dominate the Mediterranean. It is possible, some observers believe, that the French as enslaved soldiers will even take up arms against the British.

In Tokyo where the French-German collaboration plans are being eagerly awaited, the warlords and sword rattlers are biding their time to strike. About the only thing that is holding Japan at bay now is the war in Russia. The United States today demanded an immediate reply to the note sent last Wednesday to Japan. While the answer to that note

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## Continuing Drive On Illicit Liquor

The illegal liquor traffic is heading into a stubborn resistance by ABC officers and deputies in this county this holiday season. Starting a drive resembling a blitzkrieg week before last, the officers are continuing their work with marked success. Already some of the illicit manufacturers are said to be running to cover.

Three more plants were wrecked in the county last Friday when the officers switched from the Free Union section to the Hassell area. Two of the plants and small quantities of beer were poured out at two plants—in Robersonville Township, and the other plant was wrecked in Hamilton Township. All three of the outfits were poorly equipped, Officer J. H. Roebuck stated.

Monday afternoon, the officers found a plant deserted in the Parmele area, but while in that territory they found four gallons of newly made liquor not far from Sam Powell's home.

## Christmas Savings Checks Are Mailed

The Guaranty Bank and Trust Company mailed out yesterday approximately 200 checks to Christmas Savings depositors in and near Williamston. The fortunate members of the 1941 Christmas club are \$15,000.00 better off by having joined the club twelve months ago.

The above sum represents savings of over 200 members, which is the largest number as well as the largest amount of savings ever distributed by the local institution. Last year the Christmas club paid out \$10,000.00.

The 1941 club is now open and will remain open for at least four weeks.