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**Who Is the Keeper of the Bridge?**

There seems to be some controversy about the responsibility for the care of Whitley's bridge.

The county commissioners have notified Messrs. R. S. Critcher and Sons to rebuild the bridge, because they drive a heavy truck over the bridge frequently. The Messrs. Critcher say they will not rebuild the bridge, as they are travelers within the law, that they pay a license tax to operate a truck over the public highways of the State, and that the truck is loaded according to its taxable schedule.

They say they are not individually liable for the roads and bridges any more than are the other users of the road, and for these reasons they are not going to obey the order of the board.

While this controversy exists, the bridge stands in a very dangerous condition and is almost impossible.

This again brings up the question of the automobile license tax moneys all going to the State road fund, leaving nothing for the secondary or lateral roads of the various counties. The State has raised the carrying ca-

capacity of the highways until loads are passing on the State system of highways that can not safely go over the by-roads.

The State legislature will doubtless be called upon in some early day to use some portion of the auto tax on the county highways instead of all on the State.

Less than a fourth of the Martin County roads are embraced in the State highway system and all the license tax money goes to that one-fourth of its mileage. Nor is this all, all the gasoline tax goes to the State roads and none to the county roads.

The board of commissioners have a right to abolish the Poplar Point road and take down the Whitley bridge. But they are inviting trouble by letting the bridge stand in an unsafe and dangerous condition.

The man who suffers a property loss, or who suffers a personal injury will have a right to inquire in court who the lawful keeper of the bridge is. It would seem that the risk is too great to justify delay in making repairs.

**Prosperity Just Around the Corner**

Much is being said these days about the prosperity just ahead. Well, that is good news. It is like emerging from the grip of a great storm or the rescue from a thorny desert, just to think of coming through the great upheaval that we have passed through during the war period.

Mr. Coolidge has just said, "My administration has brought the country its greatest prosperity." A great claim, and it is true for a few folks; but with the great mass of Americans, it is a gigantic falsehood.

Now, when we hear such loud predictions for immediate prosperity it reminds us that it is almost election time again.

But it makes us feel better to hear that prosperity is coming. It makes

us happy and makes us laugh; and since happiness and plenty of laughter gives us good health, then we will be the better, even with the mere prediction of good times ahead.

Really there is an honest hope for some better conditions for the crop producers. In the period of readjustment the little fellow has been the greatest sufferer. He has always gotten little enough and when the crash came he went even lower than his old low level.

Assuming that half of the predictions are true, and the prosperity goes to all channels of industry and production in equal proportions, then eastern Carolina will reap a rich reward from its fine crops now growing.

**Traffic Accidents for First Half of 1926**

The North Carolina Highway Commission has just come out with its report of accidents on the State highway system for the first six months of this year. The report shows that 75 persons were killed and 660 were

injured.

For the year ending July 1, there were, in the first district, which includes this county, 20 people killed. We were led by only one district, the sixth, where there were 26 killed. The

**The Story of the Last Duel Fought in This Section**

Colonel Edward C. Yellowly, who was born on a farm adjoining the old Skewarkee church, a mile and a half from Williamston, about the year 1815 achieved sufficient prominence that I would like to place his name among your list of historical sketches of Martin County men.

It is always interesting to follow closely the walk of a man from the cradle to the grave; and whether he does much or little, whether he is good or bad, his history is written step by step, deed by deed, in the minds of the people about him. We, however, only place the names of our leaders on the pages of written history; the less prominent are seldom mentioned.

Edward C. Yellowly was the son of Edward Yellowly, whose name appears in a public way in our county in the latter part of the 1700 period. Early in the nineteenth century he was the only hotel man, or innkeeper, in Williamston. He operated the old Yellowly Hotel, located on the now deserted hill in front of the convict camp and later on the lot where T. C. Cook's house now stands, adjoining the old courthouse.

The elder Yellowly sold a plot of ground to William McKenzie, chairman of the board of town commissioners, in 1797, to be used for a grave yard (now called cemetery). This plot was located on the south side of the main road leading to Halifax, which passed from where the present cemetery is now located and

number injured in this district was 211, again exceeded by only one other district, the seventh, where 232 were injured.

The fact that only three of the 75 deaths so far this year were unavoidable is very significant and means that there were 72 persons killed who should not have been.

Speeding gets the biggest toll, taking 20; then comes in old carelessness that snuffs out 12 more; next is liquor with 10; blinding lights caused the death of 4; walking on the highway, 6; inexperienced drivers, 1; fault of car, 2; cars parked on highway, 2; unknown, 9. Nearly every death was caused by some illegal act.

The laws governing traffic will do little good until there is a better observance; and nothing but a strong popular demand will cause people to respect the traffic laws.

The suggestion that a tombstone with a human skeleton painted on it should be erected on every spot along the roadside where a fatal accident occurs might cause people to think and make them more careful. Lectures to the schools, women's clubs, and all other civic clubs and organizations on the proper way to handle an automobile might help by making people think.

entered the town diagonally across the Hassell property, crossing what is now Main Street at the corner where Harrison Brothers store is now located, and passed by the Duggan property, now J. G. Godard's home. The grave yard plot was located within half a block of where the Episcopal Church now stands. It was used by the town as a cemetery for a number of years, but was later abandoned. It is now not only gone but forgotten.

We find Edward, the elder Yellowly, did not give all of his attention to the dead, because 25 years later, in 1823, he was helping to care for the living by selling land for a church ground. He conveyed one and a half acres of land to Elder Joseph D. Biggs and Deacons Ward and Harrison, upon which land old Skewarkee Church was built. This was located at the fork of a road about a half mile south of where the present Skewarkee Church is located.

We can not say whether he worshipped in his own church or was buried in his own grave yard, as he apparently, so far as history goes, dropped from the scene of action.

We then find the son, young Edward C. Yellowly, at the Greenville Academy under the tutelage of the famed Professor J. M. Lovejoy. From there he went to Pittsboro and thru the University of North Carolina.

In 1843 the supreme court of the State granted him license to practice law, and he located in Greenville, where he succeeded well in his profession.

The sad period of his life followed five years later. He had matched wits with another young lawyer of the Greenville bar, H. F. Harris, in a very notable trial held in that county. The satire of young Yellowly so enraged Harris that he challenged him to a duel. Yellowly accepted, over his feeling that it was wrong; but in that day it was cowardly not to face your adversary. So it was a case of face death or denying his manhood before the public.

Dueling was then, as now, illegal, and each of the young men was arrested and placed under a peace bond for one year. The day after the bond expired Harris again challenged him, and he again accepted, which was the only thing for a gentleman to do, though it was with much reluctance on the part of young Yellowly, who had no hatred in his hatred in ere. P. Y had no hatred in his heart against Harris.

In October, 1847, these two brilliant young lawyers left Greenville armed for the duel. Accompanied by seconds, friends, and a referee they stopped on the banks of the Dismal Swamp Canal, near the little towns of Deep Creek and Wallacetown, and

on what is now known as the George Washington State Highway.

Killing was not in Yellowly's heart. He had his second to appeal to his adversary to call off the duel, but he refused. The pace was fixed, and the call to face and fire came forth. Harris's shot went wild. Yellowly fired his gun in the air; and again asked for a reconciliation, which Harris refused, saying that he had come there for blood and would have it.

The next round was called. Harris's shot again went wild, but Yellowly felled him dead with a bullet through his forehead.

Yellowly and his friends proceeded to mount and rode away, but he was arrested and taken before old Squire Wallace, where he was released.

Harris was hauled away in a coffin made by a wheelwright who had a shop by the side of the road.

Our laws are not perfect today, nor are our practices perfect, yet we are a little higher in the human scale than our ancestors of a hundred years ago.

This incident seemed to cast a shadow over the life of this young lawyer, which he never finally was able to live down.

When the Civil War broke out, he made up a company of volunteers and was commissioned captain. He was a candidate for a seat in the Confederate Congress, though was said to have been counted out and remained in the army, where he was promoted to the rank of Colonel.

After the war closed in 1865 he returned to Greenville and continued

his law practice. In later years he was a victim of ill health and went to Asheville as one of the early health seekers to go to that now famous resort. After remaining there for a year or more he became convinced that neither the beauties of the mountain skies nor the breath of the balsam could put the vigor of youth in the body of an old man. He died there in 1885 and was carried to the home of his adoption and was buried in Maplewood Cemetery, Greenville. He was never married, and the Yellowly name has faded from the roll of Martin County citizens, even though it was in a way a prominent family once in the history of our county.

Thus it is seen that when we are born, we do not know the course we may run. Yet we may expect to be soon forgotten.

**WHERE THE HAPPY MAN LIVES**

A certain man recently publicly stated that he was very happy. Inquiry was at once made as to where he lived. He said a place called "Within my income."

Lots of folks have never even made a short visit to that place.

**NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Under and by virtue of the authority contained in that certain deed of trust executed to the undersigned trustee on the 25th day of April, 1925, by H. L. Hardison and wife, Mary Hardison, and of record in the public registry of Martin County in book Q-2, at page 385, said deed of trust having been given to secure a certain note of even date and tenor therewith and the stipulations therein contained not having been complied with and at the request of the parties interested, the undersigned trustee will on Monday, September 6, 1926, in front of the courthouse door in the town of Williamston, North Carolina, offer for sale at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real estate:

First tract: All my right, title, and interest in and to that tract of land containing — acres in Griffiths Township, Martin County, North Carolina, adjoining the lands of J. R. Tyre and N. R. Tice on the north; the lands of Dennis-Simmons Lumber Co. on the east; lands of Sarah F. Roberson on the south; and Sweeten Water Creek on the west.

Second tract: All right, title, and interest in and to that tract of land in Griffiths Township, Martin County, containing 50 acres, adjoining the lands of J. R. Tyre on the north; the lands of H. L. Hardison on the east; lands of Frank May on the west and the lands of Sarah F. Hardison on the south.

This the 3rd day of August, 1926.  
WHEELER MARTIN,  
Trustee.

**SALE OF LAND FOR TAXES**

J. H. T. Roberson, sheriff of Martin County, have this day levied on the following tracts or parcels of land, and will sell the same at public auction for cash before the courthouse door of Martin County on September 6, for taxes due and unpaid for the year 1925, unless the taxes and costs are paid on or before that date:

Williamston Township			
	Taxes	Cost	Total
John L. Hassell, 3 stores on Main St., 1 residence	\$615.80	\$1.80	\$617.60
Galvin Hassell, 1-7 interest in Hassell home place	44.00	1.90	45.90

This the 4th day of August, 1926.  
a6 4tw  
H. T. ROBERSON, Sheriff.

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**19th Series Opens September 4, 1926**

The Martin County Building and Loan Association will open its 19th series on Saturday, September 4. The greatest campaign ever put on by the local association will be staged and several hundred shares will be sold. The building and loan has been functioning for several years in this county and is considered to be an institution for safe investment.

Consult our officers or directors for information relative to a loan or a method by which you can make a sound consistent investment.

OFFICERS: P. B. Cone, President; C. A. Harrison, Vice President; Wheeler Martin, Secretary

**Martin County Building and Loan Association**

DIRECTORS: John D. Biggs, P. B. Cone, C. D. Carstarphen, C. A. Harrison, K. B. Crawford, B. M. Worsley, V. G. Taylor, N. C. Green, E. P. Cunningham