

## ROBERSONVILLE SCHOOL CLOSSES ACCOUNT 'FLU'

Total of 160 Pupils and 3 Teachers Were Absent Yesterday

### REOPENS JANUARY 28

Action Follows Suggestion of Joint Meeting of Physicians and School Committee

With 160 pupils and 3 teachers absent from classes yesterday in the Robersonville school, authorities there, acting upon the advice of physicians, closed the school for a two weeks' period, or until the influenza epidemic now raging there subsides, it was stated in an announcement made by Principal R. I. Leake yesterday afternoon. The large number of absentees brought about by the disease called for immediate action, and after discussing the situation with Robersonville physicians and school committee members yesterday morning, the suspension of work for two weeks was announced by Mr. Leake that afternoon.

While it was not stated in the announcement that the sudden closing was ordered as a precautionary measure, two reasons were advanced for the suspension of class work. Those students who were absent could not get the benefit of daily class work and would naturally fall behind in their studies, was given as one of the main reasons for the board's action. It was also pointed out that the low average daily attendance would cause the school to lose at least two teachers for the 1929-30 term, as apportioned by the State Department of Education.

Several of the teachers there left for their homes last night and this morning, two or three living long distances from this section are planning to remain, however, it was stated last night. Authorities expect to reopen the school on January 28, provided the influenza situation there shows improvement.

## FIREMEN MEET IN BELHAVEN

Ten Members of Local Fire Department At Session

Ten members of the local fire department attended the quarterly meeting of the East Carolina Firemen's association held at Belhaven last Tuesday night.

The Belhaven fire company and its town board had planned an interesting program and warmly welcomed the visitors. J. Con Lanier, mayor of the town of Greenville, responded to the entertaining company's welcome address.

Officers elected for the year include Dick Leach, president, Washington; William Gray, vice president, Robersonville; Mr. Windham, secretary, of Greenville and G. H. Cox, treasurer, of Robersonville.

The next meeting will be held in Greenville the second Tuesday night in April.

After the meeting closed, the visitors were invited to one of the oyster houses where a number of oysters were served them.

## Program of Services At First Methodist Church

O. P. Fitzgerald, Pastor  
Preaching service 11 a. m.; subject, "Man a Temple in Ruins." Evening service 7:30; subject, "In the Name of Religion."

Sunday school 9:45. Hi-League Sunday evening, 7 o'clock. Senior League Monday evening, 7:30. Prayer service Wednesday evening, 7:30.

When you worship God you follow the highest motive of the human heart. You are invited to join with us in worship Sunday morning and evening.

## STRAND THEATRE

SATURDAY FIVE-REEL WESTERN

2-REEL COMEDY And Serial "PIRATES OF THE PINES DON'T MISS IT!"

## Tobacco Specialist To Meet With Farmers Here Monday

E. Y. Floyd, of State College, Booked by County Agent For Meeting at Courthouse at 2 O'clock Monday; To Be at Jamesville at 7:30 Monday Night

Mr. E. Y. Floyd, tobacco specialist of State College, Raleigh, has been booked by County Agent T. B. Brandon for a meeting here next Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the courthouse with tobacco farmers and fertilizer dealers. Mr. Floyd, one of the best authorities in the Eastern tobacco belt on fertilization and cultivation of tobacco, will discuss these two features before the meeting and answer any questions that the farmers might ask.

During the past two years, Mr. Floyd has assisted in conducting fertilizer and cultivation tests in this county, and he is in a position to offer valuable information as to the best methods of raising tobacco. His discussion will be based on the data re-

ceived from the two demonstrations in this county, and according to Agent Brandon, farmers who possibly can do so should avail themselves of this opportunity to ask questions that might prove of much value.

Besides discussing the best methods of fertilizing and cultivating the crop, Mr. Floyd will give demonstrations in treating tobacco seed. Farmers who so desire are asked to bring their seed with them to the meeting, where it will be treated and returned to the owners.

At 7:30 that evening, the tobacco specialist will hold a meeting in the Jamesville school building. All farmers in that section are urged to attend the meeting.

## DIRECTORS OF B. & L. IN MEET

Tenth Series of Stock Matures; To Be Paid Off Next Monday

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Martin County Building and Loan Association held here this week, the tenth series of the organization's stock was ordered paid off. The payment will be effected Monday, the 14th, it was stated. This series of stock matured in 332 weeks and made for its holders a net earning of 6 per cent. Approximately \$30,000 will be paid out to the shareholders, according to a statement made by one of the officers yesterday.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: C. A. Harrison, president; E. P. Cunningham, vice president; Mrs. Vella A. Wynne, treasurer; Wheeler Martin, secretary and attorney.

The board of directors is composed of the following: C. A. Harrison, P. B. Cone, E. P. Cunningham, C. D. Starbush, N. C. Green, C. B. Clark, K. B. Crawford, Wheeler Martin, B. M. Worsley, V. G. Taylor, and D. G. Matthews.

The association now has stock loans totaling \$121,217.66 and mortgage loans of \$159,299.81; a total of \$180,517.47. The twenty-fourth series of stock will go on sale March 1. Officers of the Association say they expect a big issue of this series.

## SEVERAL HURT IN SAUSAGE MILLS

Alonzo Revels and Dan Jones Painfully Hurt At Hog Killings

The modern way of grinding sausage meat in this section is proving costly to many farmers. Yesterday Alonzo Revels, farmer in Griffins Township, had the tip of one of his fingers chewed off in one of the sausage mills, and earlier in the week Dan Jones, another farmer, suffered a similar hurt. Both men were rushed here, where local doctors bandaged their fingers.

While the wounds are not considered serious, they were said to be very painful. It is thought that neither of the victims will be greatly handicapped as to the use of his fingers after the wounds heal.

During the past two or three years, practically all the larger farmers in this section have improvised power methods for grinding their meats. The rear end of a Ford is jacked up and a pulley attached to the wheel is the source of power for turning the meat-grinding machine, in many instances. The method is said to be very successful, but, at the same time, it is dangerous. Several others farmers are understood to have been slightly hurt in the machines, but the two accidents this week are said to be the worst yet reported in this immediate section.

## Arrest Man at Request of Chatham County Officers

Arrested recently by county authorities, John Campbell, white man, was returned yesterday to Pittsboro, Chatham county, where he will face charges of violating the prohibition laws. He was arrested in Griffins township a few days ago by Deputy S. H. Grimes.

Officers from the Chatham County town called for the prisoner yesterday.

## Jamesville Defeated Fremont Last Night

Jamesville's basketball team went into mid-season form here last night to register a 38-5 win over Fremont. The county lads outclassed their opponents in every department of the game.

## MORE ALARMS; SMALLER FIRE LOSS LAST YEAR

Fire Company Had 23 Calls Last Against 10 for Year Before

TOTAL LOSS BUT \$8,270 Damage During Past Year Was More Evenly Distributed; Four Losses Of Over \$1,000

While the alarms were greater by 13 last year than they were the year before, Williamston's fire loss, in 1928 was only \$8,270, as compared with a loss totalling \$14,100 in 1927. Where the loss was confined mainly to one or two fires during 1927, damage during the year just ended was more evenly scattered, several buildings valued above the \$1,000-mark having been burned.

According to records kept by the chief of the local volunteer company, the greatest loss incurred was when the negro school building burned. The next heaviest loss was the fire destroying the Garden Terrace property. Estimated loss from the fire burning the garage and automobile of Mr. J. G. Godard, jr., was placed at \$1,500, this being the third largest fire loss here during 1928. Only one other fire ran as high as the \$1,000 mark, and that was the burning of Harrison Bros. & Company's stables.

In 1927 ten alarms were turned in, but only nine of them were answered by the members of the volunteer company, the tenth one being a false alarm on Christmas night. Where, in 1927, the siren remained silent from the latter part of January to September, the deafening whistle was heard in practically ever month during 1928. In January of last year five alarms were turned in. There were four calls in March and three in September, the month the company answered calls to two big fires within 24 hours of each other.

The cause of several of the fires is a mystery and will probably remain secret. However, the records show that the majority of the fires were started by defective flues or sparks dropping on roofs. While there is no proof to substantiate a claim, it is believed by members of the fire company that two of the buildings were fired intentionally. Several of the blazes occurring during the year were the result of carelessness.

Of the 23 fires reported, 11 were of so little consequence that damage records were not kept. In six other instances the damage varied from \$5 to \$15.

In answering the 23 alarms, Chief H. D. Harrison and the members of the volunteer company responded splendidly and did exceptional work in checking what looked to be disastrous blazes. The chief and his company associates, while they are willing to offer their best services in fighting fires, are urging the people to cooperate with them in preventing fires and possible loss of life and property.

## Farmers & Merchants Bank Presents a Good Statement

The statement of the Farmers and Merchants Bank published in our last issue shows a healthy recovery from the black year of 1924. Local bankers say that 1924 was the worst year ever experienced in banking. In the early spring of 1925 the Savings and Trust bank closed and at that time the deposits of the Farmers and Merchants Bank had dropped to \$200,000 and during the following summer very few banks could stand such a drastic drop in its deposits, but the local institution stood the test and now carries deposits in the sum of \$806,544.53.

This bank is one of the strongest in the State, and today it has the confidence of the people which it deserves. It has stood this drop in deposits and yet has not made any unreasonable demands on the people to whom it lends money. It has a policy of liberal loans on absolute safety to its depositors and after all has been said in banking, the careful making of loans is the backbone of safety for the community and a bank is the holder of the community pocket book.

## Program of Services At Episcopal Church

"Me for the Sunny South," Rev. A. H. Marshall stated in a letter announcing services in the Episcopal Church here next Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall have been on a visit to their daughter in Nelsonville, Ohio, and while there the manager suffered an attack of the "flu." In his letter, written there last Monday, Mr. Marshall stated that he was much better and was planning to leave the next day and would be glad to get home. He arrived home yesterday and will be here for the Holy Communion service at 11 o'clock Sunday morning. Sunday school will be held at 9:45; it was stated.

The public is invited to the service.

## FIND MUTUAL INSURANCE PAYS

50 Farmer-Members of Fire Insurance Association In Meeting Here

With approximately fifty farmer members present, plans of the operation of the Martin County Branch of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance association during 1928 were made at an annual meeting held in the courthouse here last Tuesday. Various reports were made concerning the operation of the association during the year just closed, and officers were elected for 1928.

The Martin County branch of the association has, in its 35 years of operation, grown to be a million and a quarter dollar institution, carrying insurance covering losses caused by fire, wind and lightning. Offering this protection, the report rendered at the Tuesday meeting showed where every claim had been paid during 1928 and that the average cost per thousand was around \$3.15. In the cyclone destruction a few years ago the cost ran as high as \$10 on the \$1,000 property insured, but during several years, the cost has been less than \$1 on the one thousand dollar property insured.

The condition of the company, according to the annual report, is better than ever in the life of the association, an increase of eight per cent in insurance and an increase of 23 per cent in cash on hand being reported for 1928.

It has been the policy of the organization to assess only such sums as were actually necessary to pay losses and no surplus has been laid aside. The 682 members say they prefer keeping their money in their own hands until needed rather than to create a large fund to keep idle. The loyalty of the membership has proven, for more than a third of a century, that the company is safe and sound.

The following township directors were elected for this year: Jamesville, J. F. Jackson, R. G. Sexton, John H. Bailey; Williams, W. W. Griffin, Joshua L. Coltrin and B. L. Gardner; Griffins, B. McManing, Henry Roberson and Penny Peel; Bear Grass, Joseph S. Griffin, A. W. Bailey, Calvin Ayers; Williamston, I. B. Harrison, J. D. Bowen, W. S. Peel; Cross Roads, J. A. Aushon, J. H. D. Peel, Henry D. Peel; Robersonville, B. E. Jenkins, A. E. Smith, T. A. Bunting; Poplar Point, J. R. Harrison, R. L. Taylor, LeRoy Taylor; Hamilton, W. S. Rhodes, Ed Purvis, T. B. Slade, Jr.; Goose Nest, W. R. Everett, W. J. Johnson, N. F. Brown. W. C. Manning was elected president and James L. Coltrin, secretary-treasurer. Sylvester Peel, Henry C. Green and Samuel T. Everett were named on the county board of directors.

## LOCAL SCHOOL NOT TO CLOSE

Attendance Is Holding Up Remarkably Well, Say Authorities

"Unless the influenza epidemic reaches larger proportions, the local school will continue to operate," it was stated last night by local authorities. While the number of absences in the local school is greater than usual, the situation is not to be considered alarming, it was stated by the principal, Mr. L. H. Davis, last night.

According to statements made by physicians all over the county, the closing of the schools can hardly be considered as a precautionary measure. However, when the number of absences reach that proportion where few more than half the pupils are able to avail themselves of the class instruction, then it is no more than right to close, it was pointed out.

Reports from all over the county shows that the number of absences in the schools is much greater than usual. In the rural districts, the number of absences is attributed to the many hog killings and unfavorable-weather rather than to the influenza epidemic.

So far as reports could be checked, it is believed that the Robersonville community is suffering most from the malady. And where conditions were thought to be favorable last Monday, considering the scope of the disease, a sudden turn for the worse was recorded yesterday.

## Mrs. Winnie Guilford Dies at Gold Point

Mrs. Winnie Guilford, one of Martin county's oldest citizens, died at her home in Gold Point last Friday. She was 88 years old, and one of the charter members of the Robersonville Christian Church, assisting in its organization when she was a young woman.

Follow in a service in the church the body was placed at final rest in the Robersonville cemetery Saturday. The deceased leaves one daughter, Mrs. John L. Croom and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## Over 700 Carloads Farm Products Shipped From Here In Past Six Months

### LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETS

Several Minor Changes in New School Building Are Suggested

Meeting last Wednesday night for the first time in the new year, the local school board appointed a committee to go before the county educational board next Monday with a proposal to make two or three minor changes in the construction of the new school building here. These changes, minor as far as construction is concerned, will be necessary to meet the needs of the local school as it is now operating. One of the proposed changes has to do with the science department, and where the plans call for a science laboratory and a science class room, the local committee considers it better to have two laboratories and no class room for the science department. In another proposed change, the committee would have the rooms planned for vocational agriculture constructed so as to be used by a commercial department.

These changes, it was stated by a member of the local school board, will be necessary to meet the conditions as they are now and will be during the next 10 years. In explaining the reason for the proposed changes, the board member stated that while there are a number of rural children in the lower grades, it will be at least ten years before the high school reached that point where the number of rural students would be large enough to justify a course in vocational agriculture. To receive State aid for vocational agriculture in a school, the school has to enroll at least 30 in that course, it was pointed out by the local principal yesterday. If these proposed changes meet with the county board's approval, the preparatory work to an accredited commercial school will have been done.

In an effort to bring athletics in the local school under a more uniform control, the board, in its meeting Wednesday, placed all sports under the supervision of the principal and one member of the board. It will be the duty of the principal and the board member, according to the decision reached at the meeting, to supervise equipment purchases and the care of all athletic property. In general the board representative and the principal will assist in all business transactions and see that all records are properly filed and kept.

### FAIR MANAGERS ARE ORGANIZED

Will Hold First Meeting in Raleigh January 24-25; Local Manager Member

The North Carolina Association of Fairs, recently organized when 30 managers and secretaries of 23 fair associations over the State met in Raleigh and discussed the need of such an organization in this State, will hold its first meeting in the Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh, the 24th and 25th of this month, according to Mr. John L. Rodgers, manager of the Roanoke Fair Association here.

The objectives of the association, Mr. Rodgers stated, will be of great help in bringing about better fairs in the State. These objectives, as were pointed out by the Roanoke Fair manager, are far-reaching, they having to do with encouraging education, agriculture, livestock production, poultry raising, and all allied industries. The association will also make investigations and disseminate knowledge and promote the study of improved methods of conducting fairs.

The association is divided into four districts, Western, Piedmont, Central, and Eastern. The last district, in which the Roanoke Fair is included, is composed of ten counties.

### Baptists Announce Services for Sunday

The pastor will preach Sunday morning on the text, "Never man spoke like this man," or, as Weymouth's translation has it, "No mere man ever spoke as He spoke."

At the evening hour the pastor will have for his theme, "Does the modern church have competition today?"

Now that the holiday season is completely passed, it is desired that the entire membership resume their places at the church, attending as many of the services as is possible. This church remembers the many ill persons in our community, and wishes for each one a speedy recovery.

### TOBACCO HEADS LIST WITH TOTAL OF 354 CARLOADS

All Previous Records Broken By Shipments From This Point

134 CARS OF PEANUTS Cotton Is Close Third With 122 Carloads; Boat Line Handles Large Proportion of Freight

Seven hundred and thirty-seven solid carloads of peanuts, cotton, tobacco, lumber, logs, Irish potatoes, and corn were shipped from this point during the last six months of the year just ended, according to shipping records at the Atlantic Coast Line Station and the office of the Norfolk, Baltimore & Carolina Boat Line. A review of the shipments from this point during the past several years shows that the outgoing freight in the last six months of 1928 equalled and surpassed all former records.

According to the records, tobacco topped the list of shipments, around 354 carloads of that commodity being shipped out during the period. There were a number of shipments made in less than carload lots, and when these are counted in with the 354 carloads, it is estimated that more than 6,000 hogsheds of tobacco were shipped out during the six-months period.

The lowly peanut came in to claim second place in the shipment rating. A total of 134 cars, or approximately 38,159 bags were shipped to the large peanut markets in Norfolk and Suffolk during the six months. Cotton was next in order, 122 carloads of the commodity being shipped to bonded warehouses in Virginia mainly. The shipment, numbering 3,650 bales, constitutes almost one-half the cotton crop raised in the county. However, a large number of bales were brought here for shipment over the Norfolk, Baltimore & Carolina Boat Line from several of the surrounding counties. Oak City is said to be the best cotton center in the county, and when the shipment are confined to the one county, that town will lead in the number of bales freighted to the markets.

The log and lumber business carried on in the section during the six months period is not to be ignored, for shipments of logs and manufactured lumber totaled 66 cars. Approximately 40 carloads of lumber manufactured at the Murray & McCabe mill here were shipped to points all over the several adjoining States and Maryland. Log shipments totaled around 26 cars by rail and approximately 300 by barge. Irish potatoes was the next largest single commodity shipment; only 15 carloads of the farm product being shipped, however.

The lone feature of the shipping records was one car of corn. There were several smaller shipments of corn, but in all the amount billed out was very small.

Other freight, handled in carload lots, totaled 45 carloads. Cross-ties and various other articles constituted the shipments included in the 45 cars. While these shipments were started in July, the majority of the commodities mentioned were handled in October, November, and December. Long lines of box cars were pulled from the sidings here practically every week day, while the Norfolk, Baltimore & Carolina line was running extra boats to care for the shippers' demands. Solid boat loads of cotton left here day after day, and in less than three months' time, the boat line handled over 3,611 bales of cotton, 9,359 bags of peanuts, and 1,096 hogsheds of tobacco.

To combine the shipments into one large one, a train six miles long would be necessary to move all the commodities at one time.

With these shipments constituting only a part of the county's commodities, one can well imagine the importance of agriculture here.

### Local Boys and Girls Win Over Windsor

The local school's basketball ball teams downed Windsor here last Tuesday night in two one-sided games, the boys winning 45 to 6 and the girls taking the large end of a 24 to 4 score. Early in the games, the locals obtained good leads which they maintained throughout the periods. Several of the second squad members were used in both games.

Winterville is scheduled to send its boys and girls here tonight to meet the locals. Next Tuesday night Coach Hood will carry his teams to Windsor to play return games with the school teams there.