

GEO. W. BLOUNT DIES HERE AFTER 10-WEEK ILLNESS

Was Prominent Figure In Mercantile Business For Nearly Half Century

George W. Blount, one of Williamston's oldest and most highly esteemed citizens, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. P. Cunningham, on West Main Street here, this morning at 8 o'clock, the end coming peacefully following an illness of several months' duration. The immediate cause of his death was heart trouble, caused by several paralytic strokes, the last of which was suffered the early part of last December. Mr. Blount had been in declining health during the greater part of the past two years, but he was able to be up and attend to his duties until his last stroke.

Born in Bethel on August 1, 1861, Mr. Blount attended the schools there and later completed his education at Rutherford College. After teaching in the Bethel schools a while, he entered business with his brother there, marking the beginning of a long and successful merchandising career. The firm opened a branch in Rocky Mount some time later, but Mr. Blount closed the business there to open a store here about 1888. He handled his first business transactions here in a store located where the Welcome Inn now operates, but several months later he purchased the stock and building of Biggs and Davenport on the corner of Smithwick and Main Streets. For nearly a half century, he personally operated the business there, running in connection with it a hotel for about 20 years. He withdrew from the hotel business following the death of Mrs. Blount about 1912, and devoted his time to the mercantile business and the operation of his farms.

Mr. Blount's long merchandising career was marked by his friendliness and understanding. He was not at all pretentious and proved himself a friend to his fellowman, his church and organizations designed for the betterment of his community. While conservative and a diligent worker, Mr. Blount was recognized as a pillar of the local Methodist church, of which he was a member for many years. Although he never sought favors, Mr. Blount was always ready and willing to extend one, and his daily walk in life was marked by his cheery whistle and friendly greetings to all. He was a Mason and served as a member of Williamston's board of commissioners for a number of years. In the material, as well as the spiritual growth of the town and community Mr. Blount figured prominently. Hardly more than two years ago he moved from his old business home to a new store built when the Hotel George Reynolds was remodeled. Failing health the latter part of last year caused him to sell his business.

In early manhood, Mr. Blount married Miss Allie G. Gaynor, who died about 24 years ago. He leaves two daughters, Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Kate B. York, both of Williamston, and five grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, Messrs. John D. Blount, of Rocky Mount, and M. O. Blount, prominent Pitt County man, of Bethel.

Funeral services will be conducted from the home of his daughter on West Main Street here tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. Rev. R. R. Grant, pastor of the local Methodist church, will conduct the service, and he will be assisted by Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, pastor of the local Presbyterian church. Interment will be in the family plot in the local cemetery.

Test Machinery In New Factory

The Clark Candy Company, Williamston's newest enterprise, will make a test run the latter part of this week, Mr. Clark, owner and manager, said yesterday. A greater part of the machinery has already been placed in the new building just off Smithwick Street on the A. C. L. Railroad.

Mr. Clark stated yesterday that full-time operations would likely get underway some time next week after adjustments are made following the preliminary tests about Friday or Saturday of this week.

Operations for a while, Mr. Clark added, will be limited to bulk production, explaining that wrapping of individual wrappings for distribution to retailers will not be started just now. The factory products will be placed in the hands of brokers to start with, but a portion of the output will be available locally, he said.

Again Postpone Reopening of County Schools; No Date Set

The reopening of Martin County's white schools, scheduled for tomorrow, has again been delayed, official announcement from the board of education office advising that no effort would be made to start school again until such time the weather and roads permitted unhampered operations.

If the weather moderates and the condition of the roads improves, the schools will reopen next Monday, but if there is no material change it is almost certain that another delay in the reopening will be ordered by the authorities.

Plans were underway at one time this week to reopen the Bear Grass school on Wednesday, but rain falling Monday night made it necessary to abandon those plans, it was said.

Patrons and teachers in some sections have pledged their cooperation in reopening the schools, but the officials deemed it advisable to delay the re-opening. Patrons in the Oak City district stated they would deliver their children on carts and wagons, if necessary, to points where the busses could travel, it was learned.

Patrolmen Checking Motorists for Licenses

EX-SLAVE DIES



Emanuel Andrews, one of the very few ex-slaves living in this county, died at the home of a friend near here last week.

Negro Shot to Death Here Last Night by Unknown Assailant

Henry Lanier, 60 Years Old Dies Almost Instantly At Home Here

Henry Lanier, 60-year-old local colored man, was murdered early last night while preparing supper at his humble home on Church Street in the hollow just to the west of Dinah's Hill. He died almost instantly, officers finding his body resting against a chair.

The shot, fired through a window to the kitchen by his assailant, struck Lanier in the right side of the face and head. Lanier was hardly more than 8 feet from the murderer when the shot, fired from a shotgun, struck him.

Sam Cross, a colored man living next door, heard the report of the gun and saw some one run from the scene. Cross went to a window of the Lanier home and heard the dying groans of the man. He reported to officers, who found Lanier dead, his body crumpled over a chair almost in standing position. An inquest was held at the direction of Coroner S. R. Biggs, the jury finding that Lanier came to his death from gunshot wounds caused by an unknown party.

Lanier, who spent most of his time fishing on the Roanoke for his meagre existence, lived alone, his first wife having died years ago and his second having left him some time ago. While he possessed certain peculiarities and was considered rather an unusually and sporty dresser, he is not known to have caused anyone trouble or harmed anybody. He was a great lodge leader among his people, and no motive has been advanced that will throw any light on the killing.

No arrest has been made in the case, but officers are understood to be conducting an investigation that is expected to bring results.

Buncombe Farmers Take More Interest In Cattle

Buncombe County beef cattle are reported in excellent condition despite continued snow and cold. The growers are simply taking more interest in their cattle, says the farm agent.

Several Hundred Are Stopped; All Comply With Law

Those Who Do Not Have Licenses Advised To Stop Driving

The distribution of automobile drivers' licenses is pretty nigh complete in this district, according to Patrolmen Billie Hunt and Georgie Stewart. The two patrolmen have stopped or questioned several hundred motorists and without a single exception every one of those questioned had the proper licenses, Mr. Stewart said yesterday noon.

It was explained that warrants would be issued then and there in those cases where the drivers did not have their licenses, but so far no warrants have been necessary. In those cases where the driver has lost his license he will be directed to stop driving until he gets another permit. Those drivers who have lost their licenses are supposed to appear before a notary public and file a second application, pay 50 cents and sign an affidavit stating that the license had been lost. Another permit will be issued, but until that permit is received, the auto owner is supposed to stay from under a steering wheel.

There are yet a few who filed applications for licenses and have so far failed to receive them. They are supposed to get in touch with a patrolman and file another, it is understood.

Those drivers who have licenses will do well to cling to them as they would their money.

No concerted check-up on licenses has been made, the patrolmen checking on the permits gradually, it is understood.

When asked if they were to smell the breath of each driver to determine if any liquor had been consumed, the patrolman offered no comment. It was rumored that each driver stopped would be examined to determine if he had been drinking, and that if he had an arrest would follow.

Man Arrested Here Had Police Record

Investigating the case charging Frank Kavanagh and W. A. Braden with impersonating Federal officers in the sale of correspondence courses, local officers learned this week that Kavanagh was arrested in Terra Haute, Ind., in December, 1933. No record was established against Braden, the man actually contracting the sale of correspondence courses to several people in this county recently.

According to a report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, Kavanagh is claimed to have obtained money under false pretense in the Indiana city back in 1933.

The two men are being held in Raleigh while the Department of Justice continues its investigation of the case. The men are scheduled to be tried in the Federal court at Washington next April, but the trial may be held in Raleigh.

Letters are arriving here almost daily, telling of contracts entered into by various people, some of whom explained that they were ready to help prosecute the case. Some of those buying the course stated they had paid as much as \$70 for it. Recent letters have been received from Varina, Raleigh, and several other places, it is understood.

FARMERS FAVOR FARM BUREAU AT MEET THIS WEEK

Plan Organization Meeting In This County Latter Part of This Week

Preliminary plans for the organization of North Carolina farmers as a branch of the Farm Bureau Federation, strong national farm group, were advanced at a meeting held in Greenville Monday, the nearly 200 farmers present from 25 counties choosing the Farm Bureau over the National Grange.

Messrs. J. A. Everett, of Palmyra, C. Abram Roberson, of Robersonville, and Agents T. B. Brandon and Murphy L. Barnes represented Martin County at the meeting, and they are of the opinion that the foundation was laid for a strong organization in this section and state.

Already activities are under way for establishing a permanent organization, and a meeting of the Martin County planning committee and members of the county control group will be held in the courthouse probably the latter part of the week, when representatives will be named to attend a state meeting in the near future. Similar meetings have been scheduled in several counties, but no definite date has been announced for the one in Martin. Assistant Agent Barnes said today.

The Farm Bureau Federation was selected by the farmers at the Monday meeting, when it was pointed out that in the recent Senate vote on an agricultural program by the Federal government, senators from the South and Midwest supported the measure, while in the east, where the Grange is considered strongest, the Senators voted against the bill.

FORMER SLAVE, ONE OF FEW LEFT, DIED LAST WEEK

Emanuel Andrews, Ninety Years Old, Is Buried In Williams Township

Emanuel Andrews, highly respected old colored man, and one of the few remaining persons born in slavery in this county, died at the home of a friend in Williams Township last Thursday of pneumonia. The former slave, who would have been 90 years old the first of next month, was taken sick only three days before his death. All his kin preceded him to the grave years ago, leaving the old man to shift for himself in his advanced years. He found friends, however, and was made comfortable in the home of a colored man named Lee.

Funeral services were conducted last Friday afternoon, and the body was buried in Williams Township, where he had experienced hard times during slavery days, but even more difficult times under freedom.

Emanuel Andrews was the son of Phillis Andrews, the chattel property and Otis and Bettie Andrews. In his childhood, Emanuel said he played, worked and fared like the white children of the plantation. One of his saddest recollections was the slave auction held on the lot where the John Peel home is now located on Main Street. Several of his close kin were offered for sale there, he claimed. During the war, he remained faithful to his master, and remained on the plantation long after the war. When he did leave, he contracted his labor for 12 1-2 cents a day, and made shingles by hand in the Roanoke swamps for a number of years. He later married, bought 16 acres of land and settled down. During a long married life, he lived peacefully and earned a livelihood. His wife died a number of years ago, and in 1934 his home was burned. He surrendered his property holdings and found a fair living with neighbors and friends, but up until the last he was active and earned his keep.

The old man never was in court, and from his humble beginning he met with success, not in a large way, to be sure, but to the extent that he supported his family, met his obligations, lived peacefully with his fellowman and abided by the golden rule. During many years of untold hardships, he never found it necessary to resort to unfair practices in obtaining a livelihood, his untiring efforts through it all gaining a place for him among neighbors in his last years on earth.

Yadkin Committee Works On New Six-Year Program

A committee of Yadkin farmers are working on a six-year live-at-home and soil conservation program to be presented to all farmers of the county.

Feed and Seed Loans Probable Again This Year; Bill Is Passed by Congress During Past Few Days

No Herring Yet; Ice and Snow In River Is Blamed for Delay

"If you'll stop sending so much ice and snow down the river, we might send you up a herring or two," Merchant Wendell Hamilton, of Jamesville, told a local man yesterday. When asked if the boys were dipping deep enough for the fish, Mr. Hamilton explained that they had been trying day after day, but had failed so far to bring up the first 1936 herring.

Last year this time herring were fairly plentiful, and there was an occasional shad to be had from the Roanoke. This year the water has

been too cold and the fish have either balked when they started up the stream or remained so close to the bottom that they could not be caught. Mr. Hamilton calculated that there would be some fish if the weather remained warm for three or four days.

Mr. C. C. Fleming, operator of the fisheries at Jamesville and Camp Point, is making extensive arrangements for seine fishing at the two points, reports stating that he planned to raise the battery and walks at Jamesville several inches.

Some Doubt as To Whether President Will Sign Measure

Need for Fund Considered Necessary by Farmers In Martin County

A seed and feed loan fund bill making available \$50,000,000 for farmers over the nation, was passed by Congress last week and is now before the President for his signature, it was learned here this week. While there is some doubt if the President will sign the measure, many believe he will reconsider and approve the fund, since agriculture suffered an adverse turn at the hands of the Supreme Court several weeks ago. Mr. Roosevelt stated last year that he did not think it necessary to create another seed and feed loan fund.

If the President signs the bill within the next day or two, it is possible that the loans will be available to farmers in this county some time during the early part of March. Under the terms of the bill as passed by Congress last week, loans will not exceed over \$300 to the individual this year, as compared with a maximum of \$500 last season.

Last year 221 Martin County farmers participated in the fund, borrowing \$26,936.50, an amount considerably smaller than the borrowings by Martin farmers the year before. According to Mr. J. D. Wordsworth, field representative for the fund, approximately 97 per cent of the \$26,936.50 has been repaid. Mr. Wordsworth explained that total collections would approximate 99 per cent of the lendings.

Doubtful if there would be a seed and feed loan fund available this year, many farmers in this county have already applied to the resettlement administration for money to finance their farming operations this year. A report from the county office of that organization clearly indicates that it will not be able to handle all the applications, that there will be many farmers who cannot farm this season unless they are financed through the seed and feed loan fund.

The resettlement group has received more than 200 applications from farmers in this county for loans, but hardly one-fourth of that number has been approved so far. The approximately 40 loans already approved by the authorities are expected to average between \$400 and \$500 per applicant, it was roughly estimated.

Turning to the Washington Production Credit Association as another source of credit, Martin farmers have entered many applications for loans from that organization. Very few have been approved since the appraisers have found it next to impossible to make inspections.

Windsor Business Houses Robbed in Series Burglaries

Wholesale House Entered Two Nights In Row There Last Week

Robbers have preyed on Windsor merchants during the past several nights, Sheriff Fred Dunstan, of Bertie, stating yesterday that nearly 200,000 cigarettes, a hundred dollars or more in cash, chewing tobacco, and other articles were stolen in three raids on successive nights.

The robbers centered their attention on the Bowen wholesale store, which was robbed on Friday night and again the following night. Most of the cigarettes and the cash were stolen there. Yesterday morning about 4 o'clock, Pender's store was entered again for the second or third time during the past several weeks. Cigarettes and chewing tobacco were stolen there.

Sheriff Dunstan and Attorney Steve Kenney were here yesterday morning conferring with Sheriff Roebuck and other officers, but as far as it could be learned, no clues to the identity of the robbers could be established.

Jackson County Farmers Buying Lespedeza Seed

Jackson County farmers are buying lespedeza seed in large quantities for seeding this spring. Korean lends in demand.

Foxworth and Evans New Warehouse Firm

Complete Personnel To Be Announced Soon, Partners Say

Both Men Well Known To The Farmers of Martin County and Section

Messrs. George D. Foxworth and Holt Evans will operate the Planters Tobacco Warehouse here this coming season, it was announced yesterday. The partnership was effected last Saturday, and plans are being completed rapidly for operations during the coming season, it was said. The complete personnel for the house will be announced shortly, it is understood.

Both Mr. Foxworth and Mr. Evans are well known to the farmers of this entire section. During the past two years, Mr. Foxworth has been prominently connected with the Williamston Tobacco market as co-operator of the Planters house. During that time he has proven himself an able tobaccoist and a friend of the farmer. Mr. Evans has been connected with the Robersonville market during the past several years, and he too has made many friends all over eastern North Carolina as a warehouse operator. He is also operator of a horse and mule exchange here, his dealings in both business undertakings having gained for him an enviable reputation for his fairness, and untiring efforts to aid and please his patrons.

Messrs. Foxworth and Evans have not announced their complete plans for operating the house, but they state that a concentrated drive will be made in behalf of the Williamston market this coming season.

No P. T. A. Meeting Will Be Held Here This Week

The regular monthly meeting of the Williamston Parent-Teacher Association, scheduled to be held Thursday afternoon of this week, has been postponed. Principal D. N. Hix announced this morning. State Superintendent Clyde Erwin, who was to have addressed the meeting, has been notified that it was necessary to postpone the meeting indefinitely on account of bad roads and weather.

Few Martin Farmers Turn In Cotton Sale Certificates

Hardly more than one-third of the farmers in this county have turned in their cotton sale certificates so far, Mr. T. B. Slade, assistant in cotton control, said yesterday. In most of the cases where the sales were made during August, September, October and a part of December, the farmers will be entitled to adjustment payments, Mr. Slade said.

Hassell Woman Found Dead in Bed Today

Mrs. Mary Little, 54 years old, was found dead in bed at her home in Hassell early this morning, reports stating that death was apparently caused by heart trouble. Mrs. Little was the wife of W. E. Little, farmer of that section.

Funeral services will be conducted tomorrow afternoon, complete arrangements for the last rites not having been completed at noon today.

HIGH WATER

The Roanoke, already over its banks, is scheduled to go on another rampage at this point the latter part of this week, unofficial reports indicating that the stream will reach a point between 13 and 14 feet, or about one foot under the high water three weeks ago. The river was reported still rising at Weldon yesterday, where it was expected to reach 43 feet or more above the average.

No accurate forecast was available here today, but the local weather station reported that the crest would probably be reached here about next Saturday or Sunday.

Two Local Firms Start Fire, Smoke And Water Sales

Culpepper Hardware Firm and Barnhill Brothers Offer Big Bargains

Their stocks wrecked by fire, smoke and water in the big fire that swept the Culpepper Hardware store building, operators of Barnhill Brothers, general mercantile establishment, and the hardware owners are staging some real fire-smoke-water sales here this week. Barnhill Brothers are starting their sale on Thursday and the hardware owners are starting theirs the following day.

While the stocks went through one of the worst fires experienced here in several years, the goods were not greatly damaged, as far as their actual service value is concerned. However, the smoke went through them, and now the goods are being offered at the lowest sale prices advertised here in years. A few of the items are listed in separate pages carried in this paper.

Local Store Entered And Robbed Some Time Sunday Night

Dozen Suits of Clothes Are Stolen From Store of Shain and Israel

Robbers entered the mercantile establishment of Shain and Israel here some time during Sunday night or early Monday morning and stole eight men's blue serge suits, many pairs of socks and hose and a few other articles. Police, investigating the robbery, have not yet uncovered any direct evidence that will lead to an arrest.

The robbery apparently was the holes were cut through the back door where one would have been sufficient in aiding the robbers to pull the cross-bar from its place. The holes were just large enough for a person with a small arm to use.

Shain and Israel are located in the store building next to the Virginia Electric and Power Company offices on Main Street. The robbery was the first reported here in recent weeks.