

WILL F. BYRUM, 55, DIES SUICIDE AT DARDENS HOME

Ends Life by Firing Load Of Shot In Stomach Early Yesterday

Will F. Byrum, 55-year-old white farmer of the Dardens section, this county, ended his life at the home of his step-son, Paul Allen, yesterday morning about 10 o'clock. The man, said to have been in a drink-crazed condition, used a shotgun, the load tearing a sizeable hole in his stomach and causing death almost instantly. Investigating the killing, Coroner S. R. Biggs and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck termed it a clear case of suicide and considered an inquest unnecessary.

Mrs. Byrum, who was Mrs. A. T. Allen before her last marriage in February, 1922, was at a community store about one mile away, when the man told his step-son and a neighbor visiting in the home about that time that he was going to the barn and kill himself. The neighbor paid little attention to Byrum's statement and left a few minutes later, giving no more thought to what the man said. He had not gone very far before he heard the report of a gun. Summoning aid, the neighbor returned and found the man dead in the barn, Byrum having pulled his right shoe off so he could trip the trigger with his toe. Byrum's stepson was ill in bed, and tried to call the neighbor to stop the man and take the gun away from him, but the plea was not heard, and Byrum completed the tragic act without interference.

The suicide was the first reported in the county this year.

Byrum was a native of Bertie County, but had lived in the Dardens section of Jamesville township for about 14 years. Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon, and burial will be in the family cemetery near the late home.

Short Session of Recorder's Court Is Held Tuesday

Only Three Cases Disposed Of by Judge Peel This Week

The Martin County recorder's court held its shortest session in recent weeks Tuesday, when only three cases were disposed of by Judge H. O. Peel. Several others were continued until next week.

R. L. Taylor, charged with operating a truck with improper equipment, was adjudged guilty, the court suspending judgment upon payment of costs.

The case charging Leggett Roebuck with drunken driving was continued under prayer for judgment.

David Rufus Rice, colored man from Bertie County, pleaded guilty of drunken automobile driving and was fined \$60 and taxed with the costs. His license to operate a car was revoked for a period of one year.

The case charging Navin Clements with an assault with a deadly weapon was not prossed.

Mrs. J. H. Roberson Dies Late Thursday

Mrs. Verna Little Roberson, 59 years old, and one of eastern North Carolina's most well known and greatly beloved citizens, died late last night at her home in Robersonville following an illness of eight weeks' duration. Pneumonia and other complications, following an immediate cause of her death.

Mrs. Roberson was the daughter of the late I. H. and Della Gajnor Little, of Pitt County, before her marriage to Mr. J. H. Roberson, jr. of this County 37 years ago. She was a member of the Robersonville Baptist Church and took an active part in religious work in the community.

Besides her husband she is survived by three children, Mrs. Geo. Mardre, of Windsor, and Vance L. Roberson and Miss Della Roberson, of Robersonville. She also leaves three brothers and sisters, Mr. G. R. Little, of Elizabeth City; Mr. W. J. Little and Mrs. N. C. Everett, of Robersonville, and six grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted from her late home Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock by her pastor, Rev. E. C. Shoe. Interment will follow in the New Cemetery, Robersonville.

Seed and Feed Loan Measure Vetoed by President Roosevelt

The proposed seed and feed loan bill, designed to make available \$50,000,000 to dependent farmers, was vetoed by the President Wednesday, bringing a near revolt in the United States Senate. While the bill was killed, the President explained that money would be made available from relief funds to dependent farmers, which, in the long run would be very little different had the loans been made from the proposed seed and feed loan fund.

It was pointed out that the bill made no provision for raising the money, and that the President was not in favor of increasing the de-

mands on the treasury. Apparently the plan is to set up a loan fund with relief money and have the present seed and feed loan organization advance the loans, it is understood. The regulations, however, may be different from those required in the bill as passed by Congress about 10 days ago. It is thought that the regional figure of \$50,000,000 will be reduced to \$30,000,000.

Definite information as to the possibility of advancing loans similar to those made during the past five years is expected here shortly. The office in this county is being held intact to handle the loans.

Cooperation Is Urged Reopening of Schools

MUDDY MUDDLE

No doubt the man writing "Muddy Water" would have changed the title to "Muddy Country" had he happened around this section about the time he started to write. Every one is agreed that the roads have been bad, terribly bad, and that the hard-surfaced roads hardly escaped damage, but the muddiest place so far reported is in the Oak Grove neighborhood of this county. A report coming from Mr. Tom Respass in that section declares that the crows found the mud so deep they could not feed until they alighted on the back of hogs and picked up peanuts from the fields as the swine rooted around.

Town Board Will Hold Its Regular Meeting Monday

No Important Business Has Yet Been Scheduled For Consideration

Williamston's town commissioners are slated to meet next Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock, Mayor J. L. Hassell announcing today that no business aside from that of a routine nature had been scheduled for consideration.

According to the mayor the matter of stop-and-go signals is still in the air; not suspended at the four intersections as proposed, however. That any action will be taken at the meeting in connection with the proposed installation of the signals is considered doubtful, the head official explaining that it was his understanding action would be delayed until after a meeting of the district highway patrol here. Just when, if ever, the patrolmen will meet here could not be learned. It was also pointed out by the official that the matter of financing the installation of the lights, termed nuisances by a reported 9 out of 10 people here, would have to be taken into consideration, even if the proposed project received favorable action by the board. The impression gained, but not stated in so many words, was that it will be quite a while before the lights are installed even if the board votes for them, the mayor explaining that the town treasury was having a difficult time struggling along with the burdens already created.

While only routine matters are scheduled for consideration, the board is almost certain to dig up something or have a problem or two presented it before standing adjourned.

County Basketball Tournament Here

Plans for a county-wide basketball tournament to be held at Williamston probably the latter part of next week will be formulated at a meeting of the several coaches in the high school building here next Monday evening at 7 o'clock, Coach "Frosty" Peters, of the local schools, announced yesterday.

It is certain that at least five schools, and probably six, will be represented at the meeting, the definite number and schedule to be announced following the meeting of coaches next Monday night. Both boys' and girls' teams from the Robersonville, Bear Grass, Farm Life, Jamesville and Williamston schools will take part in the play, and Oak City probably will be represented, it is understood.

Appeal To Patrons To Aid in Getting Children To School

Reports State That Many Children Will Be Held At Home By Illness

Work will be resumed next Monday morning in most, if not all, the white county schools, closed since the fourth of this month, according to official announcements coming from the several local committees through the office of the county superintendent this morning. It was fairly certain that all the schools, with the possible exception of Farm Life, would reopen next Monday. Members of the committee are expected to consider some time today a reopening date for the Farm Life unit.

In announcing the reopening of the schools for next Monday, the authorities directed an appeal to patrons to aid in getting their children to school. It was pointed out that the trucks would have to alter their routes, that it would be necessary for some parents to meet the trucks in many instances with their children. In an effort to maintain a high attendance percentage and prevent a decrease in the number of teachers next year, the authorities are urging the cooperation of every one in getting the children to school.

Reports from Bear Grass, where school work was resumed Wednesday of this week, indicate that sickness is likely to hold attendance figures to a low point for a few days. Principal Hickman stated yesterday that all his trucks made their trips by running around bad spots in the roads, but that sickness held the attendance to about 65 per cent of normal.

No six-day schedules for the schools has been ordered so far, but it is understood that nearly all the local committees are considering operating the schools on Saturdays.

County Teams Win First Games In Tournament

Representing Martin County, the Jamesville and Williamston basketball teams were successful in the first rounds of the A. C. College, Wilson, tournament yesterday. Williamston won over Richlands by a one-point margin, Moore breaking the 22-point tie with a free shot.

Jamesville downed Leggett by the large score of 44 to 18, gaining attention as a possible contender in the finals. Ange, of Jamesville, accounted for 18 points to rank at the top among high scorers in the meet.

Colored Man Hurt In Car Wreck Near Here Today

Turner Hines, colored man, of Robersonville, was hurt but believed not seriously at noon today when the car in which he was riding with J. M. Johnson and a small white boy ran off the road and plowed down a ditch bank for 100 yards near Millbranch on the Hamilton Road, near here. An ambulance was rushed to the scene, but Hines landed in jail instead of the hospital. Johnson and the boy were believed not badly hurt, as they are said to have walked away from the wreck.

The car, said to have been driven by Johnson, a Robersonville man, was traveling toward Hamilton at a rapid speed and failed to make the curve on the other side of the branch. Hines was thrown out 30 yards away from the point where the car finally stopped.

Unofficial reports maintain there was evidence of liquor in the wreck.

CLARK CANDY CO. MAKING INITIAL FACTORY TESTS

Plan To Start Production Schedule Early Part Of Next Week

Preliminary tests of machinery, underway at the Clark Candy factory, Williamston's newest manufacturing enterprise, are proving very successful, Manager Walter Clark said this morning. The operators plan to start production next week. A few adjustments were found necessary in two or three of the numerous machines, but they were only minor ones and will not delay production activities, it was stated.

Mr. Clark is planning a business trip to northern markets over the week-end, and will start shipments to those centers within the next ten days or two weeks, it was learned. No attempt will be made just now to supply the retail market, but products for that outlet will be processed within a month or two. Definite plans have not been announced by the management, but Mr. Clark is considering the establishment of several routes to supply retailers with peanut products and candy in this section.

The Clark Candy Company, capably managed by Mr. Walter Clark, of Plymouth, has operated in the North for some time, and its output, recognized to be of superior quality, found a ready market. The plant was brought here to be near the source of the raw products.

About twelve people will be employed when the factory starts a complete and full-time production schedule, it is understood.

Native of County Dies Wednesday at Old Sparta Home

Burial Was On Old Home Farm Yesterday In Griffins Township

Joseph Walter Griffin, a native of this county and a member of one of this section's oldest families, died at his home near Old Sparta Wednesday. He was taken ill only the night before with influenza which apparently settled in his brain and caused death a few hours later. He had suffered with an ear ailment prior to that time, however.

Mr. Griffin, 63 years old, was born in Griffins Township. He married Miss Lizzie Peel, also of Griffins, and she with seven children, Raleigh, Fenner and Edward, of Wilson County; Louis, of Fort Gregg; Thomas L., of Fayetteville; and John L., of Edgecombe; and Mrs. Martha G. Gardner, of Elm City, survives. He also leaves two brothers, Messrs. A. T. Griffin, of Goldsboro; and Simon D. Griffin, and two sisters, Mrs. Emma Corey and Mrs. Bettie Lilley, all of this county.

About thirty years ago Mr. Griffin left Martin County and lived in the Wilson area most of the time. He was an able farmer, and engaged in agriculture all his life.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday and interment was in the family cemetery on the old home farm in Griffins Township, Rev. W. B. Harrington conducting the last rites at the grave.

Child Dies Tuesday Result Diphtheria

Arnold Barber, three years old, died at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Perle Barber, near Jamesville, last Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock of diphtheria. The little fellow had been sick for only a week.

Besides his parents, he is survived by five brothers, Octavius, Cushion, Mason, Leonard, and Golden Barber and three sisters, Mrs. Elsie Modlin, Pearl and Mabel Barber.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home Wednesday afternoon by Daniel Hardison. Burial was in the family cemetery, near the home.

Radio Broadcasters Will Be at Bear Grass Tuesday

The Tobacco Tags, radio broadcasters attracting state-wide attention during the past number of months, will appear in person in the Bear Grass school auditorium next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, Principal Hickman announced yesterday. A packed house is expected to hear the players. Mr. Hickman explained that a small admission fee would be necessary to offset expenses.

County Commissioners To Make Plans and Set Up Machinery for Listing Property at Meet Monday

Plan To Begin Work on Street Widening Projects Here Soon

Work on widening both ends of Williamston's main street is likely to get under way in a comparatively short time, according to unofficial reports coming from the contractor, F. D. Cline, of Raleigh, this week. No exact date when construction would actually get under way could be learned.

The project, calling for widening East Main Street 6 feet on each side and making a road

30 feet wide, and widening West Main Street 4 feet on each side to make that stretch 24 feet wide, is estimated to cost around \$18,000.

The Raleigh contractor is also handling a street project in Robersonville for the highway commission, unofficial reports indicating that the project will be started here first, giving Robersonville authorities more time to consider a proposed town paving project there.

Fertilizers Starting To Move in Quantity From Local Plant

Increased Purchases Are in Prospect at Standard Plant Here In 1936

Fertilizer shipments, following the few days of spring weather, started moving in larger quantities from the plant of the Standard Fertilizer Company here this week. Unfavorable weather conditions have delayed deliveries considerably this season, but the large plant of the Standard Company has made every preparation to handle what apparently appears to be a record business this year.

According to reliable reports coming from the plant and from numerous farms in this section, Martin County farmers are booking larger and more numerous orders with the makers of the famous Gro-More fertilizers this year than ever before. News of the numerous and quality tobacco crops grown with the Standard products in the past is reaching more and more farmers, and reliable reports indicate more farmers are turning to the Gro-More brands in this and many other counties than at any previous times.

The company is carrying a series of convincing advertisements in several newspapers, advancing plain facts to show the real worth of Gro-More brands for tobacco and all other farm crops.

Officers of Baseball Club Are Elected

Plans for promoting organized baseball here this coming season were laid at a meeting of local fans in L. T. Fowden's office last Wednesday evening, when Mr. Fowden, after urgent requests, accepted the task of president. He will be assisted by W. E. Dunn as vice president, N. C. Green as secretary and treasurer; Jimmie Harris, assistant secretary and treasurer; Bill Spivey business manager. Other matters were discussed but official action was delayed pending a joint meeting of all the clubs in the Coastal Plain League.

Negotiations are underway for the appointment of a manager just as soon as league organization plans are complete, it is understood. No official information could be gained as to who would manage the local club, but it is understood there are several candidates for the place, and conferences will be held with two or three within the next few days.

Local Boys Lose Game To Greenville By 50 to 1 Score

Williamston's high school basketball boys were all but "skunked" in a game with Greenville Wednesday evening at Greenville, Tom Barnhill managing to save the team from total disgrace when he registered the lone point on a free throw for the locals to compare with the 50 points made by the opponents.

The locals were just off balance that evening, and the score is not at all representative of the team's playing ability.

Lindsley Ice Company Sponsoring Free Show

The Lindsley Ice Company is sponsoring a free moving picture show, "Hidden Harvest," a romance of the farm, at the Watts Theatre here Saturday morning at 10:30 o'clock in cooperation with the Purina Mills. Free prizes will be given to those attending.

Few Changes Likely In Personnel of Tax Listers for This Year

Fewer Demands Expected From Less Fortunate Of the County

In addition to their regular routine duties, the Martin commissioners in their regular meeting here next Monday will set up the machinery for listing and tabulating all personal and real property values as of April 1. The board will limit itself in handling the tax matters to the appointment of a tax supervisor and the recommendation of list-taker appointments. Heretofore, or as a general rule, the board names one of its members to handle the duties ordinarily associated with the county tax supervisor's task. Whether the authorities will name an outside man to handle the job this year could not be learned here today.

Several of the old list-takers have filed their applications for reappointment, and while the final selections are left to the discretion of the tax supervisor, it is believed there will be very few, if any, changes in the tax listing personnel in the county this year. Last year the listing duties in the several townships were handled by the following: Jamesville, F. C. Stallings; Williams, L. J. Hardison; Griffins, Roy Coltrain; Bear Grass, A. B. Ayers; Williamston, H. M. Burras; Cross Roads, G. G. Bailey; Robersonville, H. S. Everett; Poplar Point, L. G. Taylor; Hamilton, L. R. Everett; and Goose Nest, J. A. Rawls.

No reevaluation of property is scheduled this year, and no marked changes in that class of holdings recognized as fixed property. However, improved conditions should reflect an increase in personal property values.

With the old backbone of winter broken, or apparently so, a slight let-up is expected in the demands of the less fortunate for relief. The existing situation among the poor is expected to take much time of the commissioners, however.

A jury list will be drawn for another term of superior court—a term opening in April and continuing for two weeks for the trial of civil cases only.

Finances will come in for some consideration, too, for the county has a note falling due a few days after the next Monday meeting. So, taking it all together, the commissioners have a crowded work schedule for their next meeting.

Father of Local Man Dies In Burlington

A. H. Goodman, father of Raymond H. Goodman who is manager of the Virginia Electric and Power Company's district office here, died suddenly in Burlington yesterday morning of pneumonia. Complete reports on Mr. Goodman's illness and death were not available here today, but it was learned he had been ill only a short time. The deceased, a native of South Carolina, was 63 years old, and for a number of years made his home in Raleigh.

Mrs. Goodman with four children, Messrs. R. H. Goodman, of this place; Troy Goodman, of Raleigh; and Norwood Goodman, of Columbia, S. C., and Mrs. Robert Etheridge, of Richmond, survives.

Funeral services will be conducted tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock in the Dunbar Funeral home, Columbia. Interment will follow in a cemetery there.

Father of Local Woman Dies In Hyde County

Billie Carrawan, father of Mrs. Roy Peel, of this place, died suddenly at his home in Rose Bay, Hyde County, yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock. Mr. Carrawan was 73 years old and was thought to be in his usual health just a short time before he died, the report of his death being the first news received here stating that he was not getting along all right. Besides Mrs. Peel, he leaves three sons and one daughter.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon, and interment will be near the late home.