

## SURVEY OF BLIND IN COUNTY BEING MADE BY AGENCY

### Survey Cards Are Being Distributed By School Pupils This Week

The State Commission for the Blind is conducting a survey of Martin and surrounding counties in an effort to learn the names of all blind persons or others having serious eye defects, it was learned this week from Field Agent William Lewis. The survey is being made with the intention of providing aid for the blind, the State and county both participating in the task, it is understood.

Working in cooperation with the movement is the Virginia Electric and Power Company, and it is also reported that survey cards will be distributed through the schools. Mr. Lewis, explaining the survey, said: "A child from each family represented in the schools will be given a card to carry home. His parents should write on the survey card the names and addresses of everyone who has seriously defective sight or is blind that they know. Then they should have the child return the card to his school to be collected in to Mr. J. C. Manning's office for the agent of the commission. This plan will be followed in adjoining counties as well.

"However, in the towns where the Virginia Electric and Power Company operates, a card will be given to each user of electric current by the employees of the company who presents the light bill. For this reason, most of the families in the towns will not get a card from the schools. The cards from the Virginia Electric and Power Company are to be filled out the same way as those from the schools, by writing on them the names and addresses of persons known to those receiving them who have seriously defective sight or are blind. But these cards are to be returned to the company's office in Williamston when the light bill is paid, or to the employee who collects at the home. He will carry it to the office. These cards are stamped to be returned to 'The Light Company.'

The commission classifies as 'blind' anyone who is unable to read ordinary newspaper, even with the aid of glasses. Those with 'seriously defective sight' may still be able to read some and to carry on their daily work in a very limited way. Some will doubtless only need proper glasses or operations for cataract or similar eye affections to restore useful vision.

"Persons ranging in ages from infancy to the very old are included, and both races. One's ability or inability to provide for himself financially is not to be a consideration in making reports of his eye condition.

"Should anyone who knows a person with seriously defective sight or blind fail to get a survey card, he may report by writing the State Commission for the Blind, 405 Agricultural Building, Raleigh. The survey will be followed up and the commission's program based on the needs disclosed.

## Mrs. J. H. Woolard Dies in Greenville

Mrs. J. H. Woolard, beloved woman of Greenville and mother of Mr. Garland Woolard, of this place died at her home there last Sunday evening at 6:30 o'clock, following a long illness. Funeral services are being conducted in the Jarvis Memorial Methodist church, Greenville, this afternoon at 3 o'clock, and interment will follow in Greenwood cemetery.

Mrs. Woolard, 49 years old, was born in Beaufort County, daughter of the late R. G. Chauncey and wife. Following her marriage in 1904, she moved to Pitt County, later locating in Greenville. She was a devout church worker and was noted for her charity work among the unfortunate of her community.

Besides her son here, she leaves her husband and the following children: William Woolard, Mrs. P. F. Batchelor and Misses Lucille, Francis and Madeline Woolard, all of Greenville.

## Mr. W. A. Ellison Quite Ill At His Home In Belhaven

Mr. W. A. Ellison, Williamston native and agent for the A. C. L. here for many years, is quite ill at his home in Belhaven following a severe heart attack suffered last Saturday. Reports from him this morning stated he did not rest very well last night, but his condition was thought slightly improved today.

## Rain Is Threatening To Close County Schools Again Today

Confronted again by unfavorable weather and bad roads, the schools in this county are reporting low attendance records, but with the possible exception of Farm Life, none of the plants will be closed unless conditions become considerably worse, according to information coming from the office of the county superintendent at noon today.

All the schools are open today, but a number of the trucks failed to make their trips, reducing attendance figures to a low point all over the county, it was stated.

Last week the schools were fast returning to normal operation after a long holiday. All the trucks were operating with very little difficulty, and the average attendance was slightly above 85 percent of the enrollment. Saturday, brought into use as another school day in the regular weekly schedule of all the white schools, was unlike any of the other days, reports stating that the attendance that day was slightly better, if any thing, than it was at any time during the week.

At a meeting of county principals here yesterday afternoon, a unanimous, and beginning next Saturday all the schools will open at 8 a. m. and close at 1 p. m. This schedule applies to Saturday only.

## Graham Tells Views on Several Local Matters

### HERE YESTERDAY



A. H. Graham, candidate for governor, went on record this week as favoring road refunds, radio patrol system and a special session of the North Carolina General Assembly.

## Jas. L. Whitehurst Passes Sunday at Cross Roads Home

### Suffers Stroke of Paralysis Last Week on Visit To Williamston

Mr. James L. Whitehurst, well known farmer of this county, died at his home in Cross Roads Township at 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon following a stroke of paralysis suffered while on a visit to Williamston a day or two before. He had been in ill health for some time, but was able to be up until he was stricken last week.

Mr. Whitehurst, 74 years old, was born and reared in Pitt County, son of the late William and Jane Carson Whitehurst, of that county. About 15 years ago he moved to Martin and continued to farm. Mr. Whitehurst was highly respected, and was a gentleman of the old school.

The following children survive: L. O. Whitehurst and E. J. Whitehurst, of Stokes; Mrs. Archie Davenport, of Bethel; Mrs. Eunice Matthews, of Permele, and Mrs. Yylian Clark, of Stokes.

Funeral services were conducted at the late home Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Rev. L. B. Manning, Free Will Baptist minister. Burial was in the Robersonville New Cemetery.

## Two Arrested for Drunken Driving

E. R. Bateman, Washington County man, was arrested Sunday morning about 10 o'clock near here for alleged drunken automobile driving. He was brought to Williamston by Patrolman Stuart and released under bond. About an hour later, Warren Ange, former resident of this section, was arrested by Officer Allsbrooks for alleged drunken driving.

Bateman was driving Ange's car until the arrest. Hardly an hour had passed before Ange is said to have gotten drunk and was arrested for driving the same car. When he was taken into custody other passengers in the car said they would walk home, explaining they had had enough trouble with drunk automobile drivers and the law for one day.

The two men are scheduled to appear here for trial the last Tuesday in this month.

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## Crop Control, Road Refunds and Patrol Radio Are Topics

### Candidate for the Office of Governor Spends Short Time Here Yesterday

Pushing his campaign in this section for the Democratic nomination to the North Carolina governorship, Lieutenant Governor A. H. (Sandy) Graham stated in an informal interview here yesterday afternoon that those counties advancing money a number of years back for the construction of state highways should be reimbursed by the highway commission. The candidate, apparently quite popular among the electorate here, explained that it was his opinion the state should abide by the findings and recommendations of the investigating committee, which Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus is to appoint, but who has not gotten around to the task just yet.

Some counties were more fortunate than others back there, Mr. Graham explaining that they advanced money, too, but they were protected in making advances for highway construction. Other counties, he continued, advanced considerable money, but no provision was made for its repayment. The candidate, while stating that the commission is to examine and determine the validity of the claims, indirectly made it clear that he believed Martin and the several other counties should be repaid a part if not all, the money advanced by them for state road construction.

When asked for his views on the proposed highway patrol radio system, Mr. Graham said he would favor such a system, provided it would work. The candidate explained that he was not in a position to answer the technical questions surrounding the proposed installation of the radio system, but left the impression that he would approve the recommendations of radio experts. The \$100,000 necessary to install the system was referred to by him as a lot of money, however.

Mr. Graham, having a ready answer for all questions, talked freely on all matters and without reservation, but the tobacco situation and the do-nothing policy of the present administration proved the most interesting topic. He said that he had already gone on record as favoring a special session of the N. C. General Assembly that action might be taken in an effort to effect some type of control of tobacco production this year. The Hillsboro man reserved further comments yesterday, explaining that he would give the matter much consideration

## Prominent Minister Will Preach Here

The Rev. W. H. Milton, rector of St. James Episcopal church, Wilmington, will preach at the Church of the Advent a week, beginning this coming Sunday night. Dr. Milton has served as rector of St. James for almost 30 years and has made a reputation for his church far beyond the bounds of this diocese. He is one of the 16 members of the National Council, an organization that directs many of the affairs of the Episcopal church between general conventions.

The local church feels quite honored in having this distinguished minister here for a week of Lenten services and a cordial invitation is given to the public to attend them. The time of the services will be 7:30 each night from March 15 to 20.

## Mrs. H. J. Etheridge Dies Monday at Her Home in Oak City

### Funeral Services Are Held At Late Home This Afternoon

Mrs. Maggie Johnson Etheridge, greatly beloved woman of the Oak City community, died at her home there yesterday morning at 10:30 o'clock, following an illness of about one year's duration. She had been confined to her bed since early last December, but until the end she remained hopeful and bore her affliction with little complaint.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at the late home at 3 o'clock by Rev. James H. Smith, pastor of the Williamston Memorial Baptist church. Interment will follow in the Oak City cemetery.

The daughter of the late W. J. and Ella Pitt Johnson, Mrs. Etheridge was born in Goose Nest Township 53 years ago. In early womanhood she was married to Mr. Hyman J. Etheridge, who survives with three children, Ernest L. Etheridge, of Williamston; and Naomi and Mary Louise Etheridge, both of Oak City. She also leaves two brothers, Messrs. Tom H. and Will Johnson, both of Oak City; and three sisters, Mrs. W. A. Prause, of Charleston, S. C.; Mrs. S. E. Casper, of Ahoskie; and Mrs. James Rawls, of Oak City.

Mrs. Etheridge, a member of the Baptist church, was held in high esteem by all who knew her and numbered her friends among people in all walks of life. She was a good woman, thoughtful wife and an understanding mother, her genuine friendliness and Christian character earning a place for her in the hearts of every one who had the pleasure to have known her. Unassuming, Mrs. Etheridge nurtured that devotion so instrumental in making a home happy and a community a better place in which to live.

## "Peahead" Walker To Manage Team

"Peahead" Walker, athletic coach at Elon College and manager of the Snow Hill baseball club in the Coastal Plain circuit for the past two seasons, will pilot the Williamston club in the league this coming season, it was officially announced yesterday by Mr. L. T. Fowden, president of the local baseball organization. Mr. Walker will start organizing his team shortly, but will not report here until the baseball season is completed in the college circuits the latter part of May, it is understood. Other than the appointment of Mr. Walker to head the local club this year, no definite action was taken in connection with the operation of the club, the president explaining that further developments would await a league meeting to be held in Tarboro on Friday of next week.

## Hit-and-Run Driver Is Given Hearing

Walter Fisher, young Martin County colored man, charged with hit-and-run driving, was given a preliminary hearing before a Windsor magistrate last week and placed under \$750 bond for his appearance at the next term of Bertie County Superior Court convening early in May. Unable to raise the bond, Fisher continues in the Bertie jail.

Fisher, driving a large truck and trailer, is alleged to have struck a car driven by M. L. Lemmond, of Norfolk, between here and Windsor early Sunday evening of last week and failed to stop.

Howard Stone, occupant in the car who was seriously hurt, was reported recovering in a Washington hospital yesterday. The reports stated he would lose his right eye, however.

## Mrs. C. C. Whitaker Dies in Cross Roads

Mrs. Bertha Ayers Whitaker, 36 years old, died at her home in Cross Roads Township Monday morning at 9 o'clock of an attack of pneumonia. She had been ill about ten days.

The daughter of Mrs. Martha Ayers and the late H. D. Ayers, Mrs. Whitaker was born in this county. In early womanhood she married C. C. Whitaker who survives with four children, Willie, Robert, C. D. and Simon Ward Whitaker.

## Permanent Unit of Farm Bureau Federation Is Organized at Meet Saturday; State Secretary Speaks

### Contract Is Let for Repairing Brick Warehouse Last Week

Jones Brothers, Wilson contractors, were awarded the contract to repair the Planters Warehouse here, the low bidders agreeing to handle the job for \$2,380. The contractors are said to have also agreed to keep cost records, and repair the building at those figures with the understanding that the complete cost will not exceed the \$2,380 figure.

A portion of the warehouse floor, roof and supporting timbers caved

in last December, when a large quantity of peanuts was stored in the building and a heavy snow fell on the roof.

Planning to start the repair work within the next 10 days or two weeks, the contractors plan to force a large portion of the walls and many of the heavy timbers, back into their original position without tearing them apart. About four weeks will be required to complete the work.

## Coastal Route South Is Gaining in Popularity

### Large Increase This Season in Amount Of Through Traffic

### New York's Governor Herbert Lehman Stops Here Short While Recently

United States Highway No. 17, one of the main routes running north and south, handled more through traffic this season than in any three years combined heretofore, according to reports gathered here and there. While the route is gaining in popularity year after year, the severe winter in the North increased the use of the route since Christmas. About a month ago a check on through traffic was made, and 200 automobiles were counted within three hours. The cars, coming mostly from New York, Pennsylvania, were traveling South. A survey made during the busy part of the season would, no doubt, have shown heavier through traffic.

At the present time the through traffic is about evenly divided, with some going north and some still going south. Judging from the number of cars traveling south during the past few months, the route will handle its heaviest traffic within the next few weeks, when the vacationists start returning to their homes in the north.

That the route is recognized as one of the main traffic lanes north and south is evidenced almost daily. Only last week, Governor Herbert Lehman, of New York State, passed through going north. The Empire State executive did not stop here, but his Packard, manned by special chauffeur, proceeded through town very slowly, the governor observing the scenery as he found it. Stopping for gasoline at Edenton, the governor was asked his opinion as to who would be the next president and one else has a chance, nor should. But where's that peanut smell I've been reading about?" The governor laughed heartily. A souvenir bag of goobers was handed to him, and he laughed again and continued northward.

## Hardware Stock Will Be Sold at Auction Saturday

The Culpepper Hardware company is moving its stock to the Farmers tobacco warehouse here to day preparatory to holding an auction sale there Saturday of this week at 9 o'clock. The owners plan to dispose of every article, Mr. Culpepper said this morning.

During the meantime extensive repairs are being made to the Culpepper store, and orders have been placed for a large and complete new stock of hardware and supplies. Mr. Culpepper said it would be about three weeks before arrangements could be completed for reopening at his old stand.

## White Man Wanted Here For Alleged Forgery

Charged with forgery, Fritz Koeppe, white man, beat a warrant out of town last Saturday and had not been heard from at noon today. Forging the name of W. G. Hardison, Koeppe is said to have fleeced several merchants out of about \$40 before the signature was questioned. Koeppe, coming here from Houston, Texas, about five years ago, had worked for Mr. Hardison, logging contractor.

## Around 200 Farmers Have Joined So Far; Hope To Get 1,000

### Pass Resolution Urging the Governor To Call Special Session of Legislature

A permanent unit of the Farm Bureau Federation was perfected at a mass meeting in the county courthouse last Saturday afternoon, assuring the farmers of this county an opportunity to advance their rights in a unified way. While between 250 and 300 farmers were present, the meeting proved a bit disappointing because hundreds of others were too busy or indifferent to attend and take part in what has the promise of determining the salvation of the farmer.

However, the drive is not over, the organizers of the permanent unit agreeing to take the campaign into nearly every farm home in the county.

Approximately one out of every three attending the Saturday meeting took membership in the organization, pledging their efforts to complete the worth-while work. The farmers attending were very much interested in the movement, and while growth of the Martin unit is off to a slow start, it is believed that a solid foundation has been laid and that the Farm Bureau will eventually receive a united support among Martin farmers.

Hardly had the permanent organization been perfected before a resolution was advanced and unanimously adopted urging Governor Ehringhaus to call a special session of the North Carolina General Assembly and attempt some legislation that will effect control of the 1936 tobacco production.

Mr. Henry S. Everett, temporary president of the Martin unit, outlined the program, and Messrs. T. B. Brandon and Murphy L. Barnes, county agents, made short talks, followed by an address by Charles J. Brockway, secretary of the State Federation.

In accordance with the desire of the meeting, Mr. Everett was named permanent president and Mr. M. L. Barnes secretary. The executive committee is composed of the following:

Jamesville Township: F. C. Stallings and J. F. Jordan; Williams Township: C. L. Daniel and Joshua L. Coltrane; Griffins Township: Geo. C. Griffin and W. B. Harrington; Williamston Township: M. Luther Peel and J. Daniel Biggs; Bear Grass Township: A. B. Ayers and C. U. Rogers; Cross Roads Township: J. S. Ayers and L. A. Clark; Robersonville Township: C. Abram Roberson and H. S. Everett; Poplar Point Township: V. G. Taylor and W. S. White; Hamilton Township: Frank L. Haislip and D. R. Edmondson; Goose Nest Township: J. F. Crisp and J. A. Everett.

Membership in the Martin Farm Bureau is reported to be near the 200 mark, or about 800 short of a conservative and reasonable goal. Other counties are said to have already passed the 1,000 mark, and it is hoped that Martin farmers will awaken before it is too late and lend their support to the organization that costs but little and yet has great possibilities for agriculture.

Funeral services were conducted at the home of his brothers, Messrs. E. G. and L. G. Godard, in Williams Township, by Rev. W. B. Harrington, Baptist minister, Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment was in the family burial plot, nearby.

## Conoho Negro Shot At Number of Times

Jeff Williams, colored man living in Conoho, near here, has been a recent victim of shotgun attacks, according to a story he told county officers late Sunday night. Williams declares that he was fired upon twice that night, one load of the No. 4 shot striking his arm and another in the side. The small shot did not seriously hurt the man. Continuing his tale of woe, Williams explained that he was the target but escaped a load of shot fired through a window while he was visiting in the home of Lee Speller on February 24.

Last Sunday night Williams claims he was walking to Conoho and passed within two feet of Nicodemus Razor, old colored man. A distance of hardly more than 25 yards separated the two when Williams says he was fired upon.

Reports indicate that the two men have personal differences, but Razor has not been arrested, and details of the trouble, if any, could not be learned.

## Jamesville and Bear Grass Wins Championship Title

Jamesville boys and Bear Grass girls emerged victorious in the Martin County basketball tournament here last week. The Jamesville lads turned Williamston back by a score of 21 to 18 to annex the county championship title and gain possession of a handsome loving cup.

Bear Grass rolled up a 35 to 9 score against Jamesville Friday night and defeated the Farm Life sextet Saturday night to gain the undisputed championship title for the girls.

## Informal Program Planned For Highway Patrol Meet

An informal program will feature a meeting of around 50 State Highway Patrolmen here Thursday noon, it was learned today. The patrolmen, coming here from all over Eastern North Carolina, will meet with their officers and a few invited guests at Sunny Side Inn.