

## LEGION OFFICERS ATTEND DISTRICT SESSION MONDAY

### More Than Fifty Claims Are Handled by Legion Officers from District

Offering a very helpful service to disabled veterans and others entitled to compensation, American Legion state officers reviewed 50 or more claims from former soldiers in this district at a meeting held in the county courthouse here yesterday. A larger number of claims were received than the officers expected, but each case was carefully handled and those who are entitled to hospitalization and compensation will be given due consideration by the proper authorities in the legion organization.

Following the receipt of claims, the legion held a meeting in the court auditorium which was featured by addresses by Fred Stubblefield, executive secretary of the national rehabilitation committee of the legion, and State Service Officer Jack P. Lang and Department Commander Wiley M. Pickens, on their tour of the districts. All posts in the district were represented except Hertford.

Last evening, the legionnaires and members of the district auxiliaries enjoyed supper and an impromptu program in the legion hall.

## Number Arrested Here Late Sunday

Williamston's police force was swamped with calls Sunday evening about 8 o'clock, the night shift making six arrests almost within an hour. Eli and Arthur Evans and James Slade were jailed for a murderous attack on Lazarus Williams, deaf mute, at their home down the river hill. Joe Phelps, Iver Hedgepeth and Joe Nathan, charged with being drunk, were arrested when they were alleged to have attempted to break into the home of Mollie Jacobs, colored, on Railroad Street. Williams was cut in the back, the knife blade reaching almost to his heart. His condition is critical. Unable to talk and too weak to write, Williams has not explained his side of the fight during which he was cut. The trio maintain Williams chased them home with a stick, and they turned on him with a knife.

## State Legislature Now in Sixth Week

Opening its sixth week yesterday, the North Carolina Legislature is now considering changes in the election laws of a more or less reform nature, a new set-up for the highway commission, special security and aid for the aged and dependent children with public interest centering on a hearing on the liquor question in Raleigh Thursday.

The proposed bill that has reform of election laws as its aim would take the election of judges and solicitors out of the ballot box and place it in convention; change the day for holding primaries from Saturday to first Tuesdays; provide new ways of marking a ticket, and allow markers for disabled persons, illiterates and others who want markers "for any good reason"; require registration of absentee voters and their ballots with name of voters and a serial number in a book to be made a public record; and order a new registration of voters before the next State primary.

The reorganization bill for the highway commission provides ten districts with a commissioner from each district.

## Local Church To Observe World Day of Prayer

World Day of prayer will be observed in the local Christian church Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. A cordial invitation is extended every one to attend the special prayer service.

## Infant Son of Mr. and Mrs. Modlin Died Last Evening

The seven-week-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Modlin died at the home of his parents in Jamesville last night at 9 o'clock from an attack of pneumonia. The child had been ill only a very short time.

Funeral services were conducted this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the home by Rev. W. B. Harrington. Interment was in the Gardner Cemetery, near Jamesville.

## Liquor Sales First 17 Months Are \$180,000

### SCHOOLS CLOSED

Continued bad roads forced another delay in reopening of schools at Oak City, Hamilton, and Hassell, closed since week before last. The authorities plan to reopen the plants next Monday. Jamesville, now closed, plans to reopen next Monday and possible before that time. Farm Life, closed yesterday, plans to start class work tomorrow.

All other schools in the county are continuing operations.

## County Ministers on Record Against Bill For County Option

### Dry Leaders Will Circulate Petition in This County Beginning Today

By Rev. Z. T. PIEPROFF  
The Martin County Ministers Association, meeting in Robersonville, Monday, had its attention called to the fact that there is a belief in the minds of many of the leading citizens of the county that the ministers of the county are satisfied with the present County ABC control of whisky. While in session the Association unanimously voted its dissatisfaction of the present method of control and wishes further to say that it has never been satisfied with this method.

During its session, Mrs. V. A. Ward, of Robersonville, who is a member of the state advisory board of the United Dry Forces of North Carolina brought a petition before the ministers and asked for their endorsement of the petition. The association approved the petition, which is to be circulated throughout the county by interested persons. The petition reads as follows:

"To the Hon. R. L. Coburn and the Hon. W. B. Rodman, district senators, and to the Hon. Hugh G. Horton, county representative, in the legislature assembled:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Martin County (21 years of age or above) do most earnestly oppose the present system of county liquor control and do most respectfully request you, our honorable representatives, to vote against the county option liquor bill adopted by the house, or any other legislation promoting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor (except for medicinal and scientific purposes)."

The ministerial association urgently requests all Christians and other citizens of the county interested in signing this petition to do so when presented to them and in case it is not presented to write to Mrs. V. A. Ward at Robersonville, N. C., a card or letter advising her to add your name to the list.

## Two Martin Youths Join The U. S. Army Recently

Two Martin County boys, Leslie Bullock and Dalburgh Riddick, of Everetts, applying for admission in the army two weeks ago, have successfully passed their entrance examinations and are now at Fort Meyer, Va.

## J. & W. Timber Sold Saturday

Timber rights on a considerable portion of the old J. and W. tract of land in Jamesville and Griffins Township were sold last Saturday by R. G. Hancock to W. M. Birmingham, of Asheboro. The deed calls for all timber in excess of 8 inches in diameter, the title of the land remaining in the hands of L. A. Thompson, Chicago man.

The purchase price of the timber rights could not be learned, some estimating that possibly \$30,000 was paid.

According to unofficial information, the new owners are planning to locate a mill in or near the timber source.

## Increase in Profits And Sales Shown in Final Quarter 1936

### More Than \$23,000 Turned Into County's General Fund To Date

Supported by a slight increase in sales, profits from the sale of legal liquor in the four stores in this county last quarter reached a new high level, Chairman V. J. Spivey turning over to the county treasurer for the general fund a total of \$11,442.4 a few days ago. Profits for the period were approximately \$2,000 greater than for the three months ended on December 31, 1935, the sales for the last quarter exceeding those for the fourth quarter in 1935 by \$6,000.

Since starting operation in this county on July 19, 1935, the county control board had sold, up to the first of this month, \$180,200.37 worth of liquor. The store at Williamston, with sales amounting to \$97,136.11, led the county, followed by Robersonville, with 47,432.70; Jamesville, with \$19,806.56; and Oak City, with \$15,806.56. Profits for the period being July 19, 1935, to the first of this month amounted to \$38,019.40. The control board holds approximately \$15,000 of this amount for operating or working capital, the remainder, \$23,019.40, having been turned over to the county general fund. The law enforcement fund, created by a specified percentage of the profits, now shows a balance of nearly \$1,000.

Total cost of sales, that is the amount paid liquor manufacturers, are placed at \$115,672.91, present inventories representing approximately \$17,148.22 in cash. Liquor costs average about two-thirds of the gross income from the sales, the net profits ranging around 25 per cent.

Operating expenses have remained fairly constant and average around \$3,500 a quarter. The operating and administrative costs for the entire time the stores have been in operation amount to approximately \$21,167.56, this amount including salaries for six regular employees and members of the control board.

Total sales and profits by quarters from the time the stores were opened in July, 1935, to the first of this year are:

Quar. End'g	Sales	Profits
Sept. 30, '35	\$22,249.35	\$2,743.11
Dec. 31, '35	38,500.42	9,766.49
Mar. 31, '36	25,274.96	4,759.91
June 30, '36	21,584.05	3,425.70
Sept. 30, '36	27,864.59	5,643.05
Dec. 31, '36	44,727.00	11,661.14
Totals	\$180,200.37	\$38,019.40

## Killer Returned Here For Courts

Oliver Grimes, wanted for the murder of Richard Smith in this county 14 years ago, was brought here last evening from Philadelphia by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and placed in jail to wait trial in the superior court next month.

Extradition papers were executed by the governor of this State and Pennsylvania promptly, but Grimes made every effort to block his return. A Philadelphia judge signed the necessary papers after Grimes admitted his identity and the shooting that cost Smith his life.

Sheriff Roebuck left here Sunday evening, taking a train out of Rocky Mount, and was back early last night.

Grimes' crime career was brought to light when he told his common law wife of the shooting and she reported him to the police following a family quarrel.

## Group I Bankers To Hold Meeting Here February 22

Group One of the North Carolina Bankers' Association will hold its annual meeting here the 22nd of this month, it was decided following a meeting of the executive committee here last Friday.

A large meeting is expected, C. D. Carstarphen, cashier of the Branch Banking and Trust Company here, said. An interesting program is now being prepared for the meeting Mrs. Carstarphen said today.

## LUKE ROBERSON DIES AT PARMELE HOME SUNDAY

### Native of Williams Township, Was One Time Deputy Sheriff

Luke L. Roberson, one of Martin County's oldest and most highly respected citizens, died at his home in Parmele last Sunday afternoon, following a long period of declining health. He would have been 80 years old at his next birthday.

The son of the late Nicholas and Nellie Ward Roberson, he was born in Williams Township, this county, where he spent his early life on the farm, laying a foundation of honesty and friendliness that characterized his walk through life to its end. Mr. Roberson was a gentleman of the old school, and placed a high value on the better things in life, and this county has produced few more hospitable men than he was.

Quitting the farm years ago, Mr. Roberson moved to Williamston and served as deputy under the late Sheriff J. C. Crawford. About 25 years ago he moved to Parmele where he made his home until his death.

Funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon by Elder Wm. E. Grimes at the late home at 2:30 o'clock, interment following in the New Cemetery, Robersonville.

Besides his wife, Miss Bettie Green, before her marriage, he leaves five children, Mrs. E. E. Edwards, of Snow Hill; Nicholas Roberson, of Parmele; Mrs. B. F. Manning, of Parmele; Stephen L. Roberson, of Roanoke Rapids, and William K. Roberson, of Richmond, and eleven grandchildren.

## Min G. Wynn Dies Suddenly Today

Min G. Wynn, 53-year-old farmer, died suddenly at his home near Spring Green in Poplar Point Township this morning, the apparent victim of a heart attack. Mr. Wynn had worked in the preparation of a tobacco plant bed yesterday afternoon and retired in his usual health last night, it is understood.

The son of the late State and Patsy Wynn, he was born in Cross Roads Township where he spent his early life. He moved from there to Robersonville, settling three years ago in the Spring Green section of this county.

Besides his wife, Miss Flossie Leggett before marriage, he leaves seven children, Sylvester, Beulah, Nellie, Allie Mae, Pauline, Mack Gilbert and Doris Wynn, and two brothers, Will Wynn, of Williams-ton, and Pat Wynn, of Henderson, and one sister, Mrs. D. B. Lanier, of Greenville.

Funeral services had not been definitely completed at noon today, but the last rites will probably be held tomorrow afternoon at the late home.

## Farm Life School News of Interest

Starting classes in piano, violin and banjo the first of last month, Miss Melba Russ, of Washington, now has 30 pupils enrolled in the Farm Life district, Principal C. B. Martin reported yesterday.

During the first four months of the term, 23 children moved out of the Farm Life district, a section where, as a rule, very little moving is reported. The number of pupils moving into the district during the period was not given.

The boys' and girls' basketball teams are ready for the county tournament opening in Williamston Thursday evening of this week, and they will be on hand promptly if the roads are passable.

Bad roads in the district during the past few days, made necessary the closing of the school yesterday and today, but class work gets underway again tomorrow morning, Principal Martin said.

The school has raised a considerable sum for flood sufferers, and the contributions will be acknowledged shortly.

## Masons Will Hold Big Meeting Tonight at 7:30

Skewarkee Lodge of Masons will hold its regular meeting tonight at the usual time, it was announced by the master, James C. Manning, this morning. This will be the last meeting to be held that figures in the attendance contest which has been in progress since November.

## J. F. Criswell Explains Methods By Which Soil Conservation Plan Will Be Administered This Year

### Basketball Tourney for High Schools of County Is Scheduled

Five schools will be represented in the Martin County basketball tournament to get underway in the Williamston gymnasium Thursday evening at 7 o'clock, athletic directors announced this week. The semi-finals and finals will be held Saturday evening.

The Bear Grass and Farm Life girls open the play Thursday evening at 7 o'clock, followed by a match between the Williamston and Jamesville sextets. Winners of the Jamesville-Williamston match meet

Robersonville the following night, and the winners of the Bear Grass-Farm Life game will meet the winners of the semi-finals with Robersonville.

Robersonville and Farm Life boys meet Thursday night, the winners to meet Bear Grass on Friday. Jamesville and Williamston play Friday night, the winners to go to the finals with the winners of the Bear Grass semi-finals.

The finals open at 7:30 Saturday night, the admission each evening being 15 and 25 cents.

## Bear Grass Seeking Hard-Surfaced Road

### Delegation Is Likely To Go Before State Body in Few Days

### Bear Grass Not Impressed With Recommendations Made by Board

Traveling in mud knee deep, citizens of Bear Grass were here yesterday planning to send a delegation before the State Highway-Public Works Commission in the interest of a surfaced road from Bear Grass to U. S. Highway 17. Just how many the delegation will include and when an appearance before the commission will be scheduled could not be learned. It is likely the claim will be pushed within the next few days.

Action by the Martin Commissioners at their recent meeting is said to have been a bit disappointing to the Bear Grass citizenship who will ask that their claim be considered along with those previously made by delegations from the Farm Life area. The commissioners went on record at their regular meeting this month petitioning the commission that when any further road surfacing is done in this county that it be done in Griffins Township. This recommendation was supported by the fact that Griffins is the only district in the county without a foot of hard-surface road in it, but aside from that the two districts, as well as the Hassell section, have strong claims for considerations.

Pate played these three districts a bad deal. It is believed that had Mr. Jeffries continued in the highway commission chairmanship that all three roads would have been surfaced before this time. It is a known fact that the three roads—one from Bear Grass to Highway 17, one from Hassell to N. C. 125, and one from Farm Life to Holly Springs—were on the map in the order given here, and were to have received attention some time ago. Contracts were being considered at one time, but in the shuffle at Raleigh following Mr. Jeffries' retirement, the program went helter-skelter, and it is not certain that the commission even knows there is a mud path leading from Bear Grass, one from the Farm Life section, and one out of Hassell, though delegation after delegation appeared before the authorities with claims far more justifiable than the big hold-up on Albemarle Sound.

Complete facts found by the road claim commission have not been released, but, if their recommendations are carried out, Martin County is entitled to one of the biggest road building programs in years. One of the recommendations of the fact-finding commission, it will be remembered, was to equalize the debt due counties by furthering the highway program in those counties.

## Bear Grass Girls and Boys Win Three Games in Row

Bear Grass added two victories to its list last week, defeating Williamston 48 to 13 and turning back Roper 34 to 31. While the boys captured the two games, the Bear Grass girls won over Roper 38-12. Rawls, Rogers, White, Rogerson and Rawls featured in the games.

## Explanation Heard By Number Farmers At Meeting Saturday

### Farmers Will Be Notified Direct of the Minimum Plan Requirements

"We are not telling the farmer to raise so much of this or that crop, but we are telling him how to arrange his farm program to participate in the benefits," J. F. Criswell, of the State Extension Service, said in a clear-cut explanation of the 1937 soil conservation program before a large number of interested farmers in the county courthouse last Saturday afternoon. A splendid idea of the program was gained from Mr. Criswell's talk, and there is no doubt but that the soil conservation system gained in great favor among Martin County farmers.

The backbone of the 1937 program remains unchanged, Mr. Criswell said in his frank discussion, explaining that it could not meet the needs of every individual farmer, but that it represented well agriculture as a whole, especially as to a sound program to be followed year after year in the future.

Two types of payments—diversion and soil-building—were explained. Diversion payments are made possible when the farmer diverts soil-depleting crops into conserving crops, the speaker stating that each acre of soil-depleting crops must be offset by an acre of soil-conserving crops, that any additional acreage planted to soil-building crops would entitle the farmer to soil-building payments.

Diversion payments will remain unchanged, but the extent of participation in tobacco will be reduced from 30 to 25 per cent of the base and peanuts from 20 to 15 per cent of the base, the extent to which cotton will participate remaining at 35 per cent of the base.

The soil conservation program is designed for building up the soils of America, and it is one for the people and one that will work, Criswell said. Its requirements are reasonable, but each requirement must be met if the farmer is to participate in the benefits, the speaker pointing out that many Martin farmers would not get checks for 1936, because they failed to plant conserving crops even after they had reduced their acreages to soil-depleting crops.

The program, while quite simple, is extensive in that it provides so many things, and the farmer will, no doubt, find it advisable to confer with the office of the county agent to make certain that his individual case meets with the program requirements. Provisions are made for doubling up crops, the speaker explaining that 10 acres of corn with soybeans planted in between the corn rows would count as 10 acres of soil-conserving crops. Example after example in this connection was cited, the speaker explaining that when cotton was planted in 7-foot rows with potatoes in between the rows would be divided, but if the rows were less than 7 feet apart the count would be all cotton and one-half potatoes.

Farmers who have winter soil-building crops should notify a township committeeman or have at least two farmers witness the crops before turning them under this spring, Criswell said.

Division of payments was explained, Mr. Criswell said that for cotton and peanuts, 37 1-2 per cent of the benefit would go to the owner of the land, 12 1-2 per cent to the owner of work stock and equipment, the remaining 50 per cent to be divided as the crop is divided. For tobacco and general base crops, the division allots 12 per cent of the benefit payment to land, 15 per cent to stock and equipment and 70 per cent to be divided as the crop is divided, Criswell explaining that tobacco and other general base crops required more labor than peanuts and cotton. Soil-building payments go to the one bearing the expense, or in proportion to the participation in expense by landlord and tenant. Farmers will receive direct notices from the office of the county agent setting out the minimum requirements that must be met for the farmer to receive the maximum benefits under the program.

## SEVERAL HURT IN ACCIDENT NEAR MILL INN MONDAY

### Hit-and-Run Drivers Take Three Lives In Section During Week-end

Several people were injured, none thought seriously, when two cars collided at the Old Mill Inn on the Washington road yesterday afternoon. R. J. Benton, of Newport News, suffered a severe arm injury, probably a fracture, and his two grandsons were hurt, one on the neck and the other had cuts on the face.

The Bentons were traveling toward Washington and crashed into Fawn Coffield's car as it was being turned around by Caroline Faulk, local colored woman. Coffield and the driver of his car were not hurt. Both cars were badly damaged.

Coffield accepted the responsibility, sending the Bentons on to Williamston in another car and agreeing to pay all damages.

Several hit-and-run drivers operated on the highways in this section during the week-end, but none in this county. Roy Paul, 28 years old, was killed almost instantly near Plymouth when struck by a truck there Saturday evening. An arrest in the case is expected momentarily, Patrolman Hunt said. Two other people were killed by hit-and-run drivers during the period, one near Washington and another over in Pitt County, reports received here stated.

One of the most horrible accidents and the worst airplane crash in the history of aviation in this state was reported Sunday afternoon near Louisburg. Four people traveling in a private plane from Miami to Kentucky, were killed, their bodies being mangled beyond recognition.

## Local All-Stars Add Two Victories To List Recently

The local all-stars added two more victories to their list over the week-end by defeating Washington's strong town team at the local gym Friday evening and the Bear Grass team 45 to 16.

Anderson with 14 points and Dilton Cobb with 12 featured for the locals in the 42 to 16 win over Washington. The Saturday afternoon game with Bear Grass saw a division of honors among all the players. Manager Price using all the squad in the contest.

## Lenten Services In Local Church Tomorrow 10:30

Wednesday, February 10, marks the beginning of Lent. An Ash Wednesday service will be held at the Church of the Advent at 10:30 a. m.

On Thursday and Fridays during Lent, the services will be at 5 p. m. The Thursday services will be devoted to a "school of prayer." The Friday services will feature a junior choir of over twenty children's voices. The subject of the Friday services is missions.

Bishop Darst will make his annual visit on March 7 and confirmation classes will start during this week.