

Rain Blocks Play in Coastal Loop; Locals Win Only Over Bugs

Strunk Masters Game Here Yesterday with His Bat Work and Pitching

Weather conditions won two of the three baseball games scheduled for the Martins these past three days, but as far as the records count, Williamston made a clean sweep during the period. Activities during the period leave Snow Hill and Williamston in unchanged positions in the league standing, the Billies holding to first place by a two-game margin.

Three-fourths of the current season ended yesterday, leaving 23 games on the regular schedule and several other contests that were either rained out or stalled out.

Next Monday, the Martins will journey over to Tarboro and make a bid to re-win a victory that was stalled out of the records on Sunday, June 6. The following Monday, August 9, the Martins will play Snow Hill at Snow Hill to make up the game rained out there on Wednesday, July 21.

The next make-up game will be played in Kinston on August 16, and on Sunday, August 22, the Martins and Kinston Eagles are to meet here in a double-header.

Ladies' day will be observed at the game here tomorrow with Greenville, Club President Goodman announcing that they will be admitted free to the grounds.

Attempt To Burn Store in Griffins Township Is Foiled

Owner and Officers Unable To Learn Motive for Cowardly Act

An attempt to burn the thriving little country store of Mrs. C. T. Roberson in the Farm Life section of Griffins Township shortly after midnight yesterday failed, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck stating, after an investigation; that no arrests had been made, that not even a motive for the cowardly act had been established.

The owner, explaining that she had no enemies and that she enjoyed the friendship of all the people in that section, had no idea who attempted to burn the store and could advance no motive for the act.

Kerosene was used freely on the back wall of the building, and it was by chance that the fire was discovered and brought under control just as it had burned through a greater portion of the weatherboarding on one side of the store-filling station.

Gabe Roberson, curing tobacco near by, saw the fire as it flared up, and he called the owner and sought help. Fifty people hurried there and, forming a bucket brigade, they brought the fire under control with water from a pump at the rear of the store.

No official estimate of the damage is available, the investigating officer stating that probably the loss would not exceed \$25.

Infant Dies Wednesday In Griffins Township

Ida Marie, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Edmondson, died at the home of her parents in Griffins Township Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock. She was only 19 days of age.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at the home at 3 o'clock by Elder Grimes. Burial was in the Leggett cemetery.

Checking Halifax cotton fields last week, the assistant county agent, W. M. Bruce, found heavy infestation in many fields and predicted losses to growers unless the weevils are held in check.

50 Qualify To Get Aid Under Social Security

Expect About Fifty More Will Be Added During Next Month

The close of the first month of the social security program in this county finds 40 old persons and 10 blind people sharing the benefits jointly provided by county, state and Federal governments. Other applications are pending and by the end of August well over 100 people, including dependent children and the blind, are almost certain to have their names on the pension lists.

Elbert S. Peel and Zeb Vance Norman Injured in Accident

Elbert S. Peel, local attorney, and Zeb Vance Norman, attorney of Wymouth, were painfully but not seriously hurt when the car owned and driven by Peel crashed into a bridge a short distance beyond the Beaufort County line on the Washington Road last Tuesday afternoon about 3 o'clock.

A rear tire was said to have blown out, throwing the car out of the driver's control and into the bridge, the impact ripping away a greater part of the right side of the car and most of the running gear.

Attorney Norman, still a patient in a Washington hospital, suffered a broken ankle, fractured hand, dislocated hip and severe cuts on the face. He is believed to have suffered no internal injuries and his recovery is expected. The driver suffered severe shock and cuts about the face. He was a patient in the hospital Tuesday night, returning to his home here late Wednesday afternoon. He is able to be up and out today.

Messrs. Norman and Peel were on their way to Washington where they were to join Attorneys Rodman and Rodman and continue to Myrtle Beach, S. C., for a meeting of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad legal staff.

Liquor Profits To Be Divided Next Week

The four liquor-store towns, Williamston, Robersonville, Oak City, and Jamesville, will likely receive their liquor profits distribution checks the early part of next week. The payments will probably be called to the attention of the county commissioners at their meeting next Monday, but the distribution will be made under the direction of state law, it was explained.

No official copy of the second-quarter liquor store audit has been received at this time, but it is expected today or tomorrow.

Under the distribution of profits law, the four store towns are to receive approximately the stated amounts, as follows: Williamston, \$579.06; Robersonville, \$202.37; Oak City, \$85.65; and Jamesville, \$254.06, the county receiving \$4,484.75 as its share of the second-quarter net profits from the sale of legal liquor.

Mrs. Swain Honored At Meeting of Legion

Mrs. H. L. Swain, local woman active in American Legion Auxiliary affairs, was signally honored at the State Convention held in Durham this week, when she was named to several important committees and gained recognition for her services to the organization and for obtaining the most FIDAC letters in her district.

The fourth auxiliary district, headed by Mrs. Swain, gained recognition in several instances, including the award of the Mrs. George A. Isley trophy for the greatest increase in membership of any district in the State.

Mrs. Mack Wynne, of Robersonville, was the only other representative of the county auxiliary at the convention.

H. U. Peel, Joe Winslow, Mack Wynne and H. L. Swain represented the John Walton Hassell post at the State meeting, which named H. C. Blackwell, of Fayetteville, its new commander for the year.

State Employment Service Office Will Be Located Here

Definite Details Connection With Shift from Edenton Are Not Yet Known

The State Employment Service will establish district offices in Williamston next Monday, according to unofficial information reaching here this week. Few details are available in connection with the removal of the headquarters from Edenton, other than that the change was part of an economy move. The office now employs five persons, but it could not be learned today whether the personnel would remain the same or would be decreased after it is established here.

Fourteen counties are included in the new district set-up and it is understood that several branches will be handled under the direction of the local headquarters.

Reports state that Edenton was highly disturbed by the definite news that the district office will be moved from there. The Chamber of Commerce there wiring an appeal against the change.

"Despite the addition of Beaufort and Hyde Counties and the elimination of Northampton from this district, Edenton will remain more centrally located than the Martin County Capital," Harry McMullan, secretary of Edenton's live chamber of commerce pointed out to R. Mayne Albright, director of the State Employment Service, in urging that the district headquarters be allowed to remain in Edenton. "Particularly will this be true when the Albemarle Sound highway bridge is complete," McMullan added.

There was slight hope that the proposed change would be stopped, however, as arrangements are virtually completed for establishing the headquarters here.

Three of the employees, Floyd I. White, Mrs. Kate Wozelka and Mrs. Mildred Munden, are natives of Chowan, and the other two are Mrs. Randolph Holloman, of Jackson, and Miss Mildred Stevenson, of Elizabeth City.

Quarterly Meet of Methodists Saturday

The third quarterly conference of the Holly Springs-Williamston charge will be held Saturday, July 29, at Holly Springs church. All official members, as well as every church member of the two churches is expected to attend. An interesting program will be presented.

Rev. B. B. Slaughter, the presiding elder, will speak at 11, although the conference actually begins at 10 o'clock. Afterwards dinner will be served on the grounds.

Our Church School Training Class will begin on August 8. All the officials and teachers of the church school are most earnestly urged to attend and any others who may be interested are invited to come. We will meet Monday night at 8 o'clock, the class session lasting one hour, and every night thereafter at the same time through Friday night. The course to be studied is: "The Educational Work of the Small Church."

The books have been ordered and will be distributed Sunday morning.

The ladies of the Woman's Missionary Society at Holly Springs are reminded of their meeting at 8 o'clock Saturday night, at which time their mission study course will again be presented.

On Friday night the newly organized Young People's group will meet at Holly Springs. All the young people of the church are invited to attend. The Gurganus brothers are invited to come and bring their musical instruments.

Ball Club Now Set For Rest of Season

Williamston's baseball line-up was made permanent Wednesday evening in accordance with the league by-laws, the officials explaining that no new players could be added to the team personnel and that should any vacancies occur they would have to be filled by players now on the team roster or go-unfilled.

On the suspended list these past few days, Irving Biggie, the pitcher sent here by the St. Louis Browns, and Dick Sharkey, the hard-working catcher from Pennsylvania, were released Wednesday to the Tarboro club. Under this arrangement two young men can continue playing the remainder of the season, R. H. Goodman, president of the local club, explained.

Watson Executed in Raleigh Today; Still Sticks To Statement

Pays Supreme Penalty for Murder of Young Man In Robersonville

Alvin W. Watson, 21-year-old Georgia white man, paid with his life in North Carolina's gas chamber this morning at 11:17 o'clock for the murder of Thomas Holliday, young white man, at a filling station in Robersonville early on the morning of last November 22. Admitting his part in the crime, Watson entered the gas chamber at 11:17 o'clock, and was pronounced dead eight minutes and 58 seconds later by the prison physician; the chamber execution being the shortest on record, prison officials said.

In a statement to Sheriff Chas. B. Roebuck, of this county, just a few minutes before the execution, Watson admitted his part in the crime that cost Thomas Holliday his life, but the young man carried to his death the statement that Willis Bullock, young Martin County white man, did the actual killing.

"I am guilty of robbery, but I did not kill him," he told Sheriff Roebuck and reiterated the statement made the day before, as follows: "God is my witness; Christ knows that I am not facing him with a lie on my lips."

"I am ready and willing to die," the doomed man told the sheriff, "and I am thankful that my sins are under the blood of Christ. I can't sink standing on such a rock."

Deputy Sheriff J. H. Roebuck, Chief Wm. Gray and Arch Griffin, of Robersonville, were the only witnesses to the execution from this county. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck went to Raleigh expressly to help make arrangements for the delivery of the body to the old family home in Georgia and not to see the man's life snuffed out by the deadly hydrocyanic gas.

It was Watson's last request before leaving the county jail that the sheriff please see that his body was sent to Georgia if pleas for mercy were denied. "I have a good mother, and I want my body sent home for her sake," he told the sheriff just before starting the trip to Raleigh just before the Christmas season last year.

The body was turned over to Odell Watson, a brother who had borrowed money and bugged his way to Raleigh to handle the last detail that marked the end of the youth's crime career. Turned over to a Raleigh undertaker, the body is being prepared for shipment to Watkinsville, Georgia, a little town of 425 people.

Watson was scheduled to die at 10:30 o'clock this morning, but his execution was delayed until Thomas Perry, young negro man, paid with his life for raping a colored woman.

Last-minute appeals were directed to the pardon authorities in an effort to save Watson's life, but the young man's past record presented itself and blocked each appeal, it was said. Prior to his coming to this county with the Hardaway Construction Company last fall, Watson had been tried and convicted of assault with attempt to kill, housebreaking and robbery. He was driving a stolen car when arrested in this county.

Watson and Bullock were tried in this county last December for the robbery of the Robersonville filling station and the murder of young Holliday. Watson admitted he participated in the robbery, but alleged that Bullock used a hammer and did the actual killing. He maintained the truth of the statement to the last, but it was only his evidence that implicated Bullock and the trial jury refused to accept it and released Bullock. Watson was found guilty by a jury brought here from Beaufort County the day after Bullock's trial.

Only One Case for Recorder Monday

In months, the county recorder's court last Monday called the one case on the docket and adjourned a few minutes later. The case, charging Sam Coffield with bastardy, was continued until next Monday.

Since the court was established 16 years ago there have been just a few occasions on which no cases were on the docket for trial, but the docket this week was recognized as the smallest in recent times.

Three cases, besides the charge against Coffield, are awaiting action. One defendant is to hear sentence next Monday, and two others are the objects of searches by officers.

Assistant Solicitor Robert L. Cobern was present to prosecute the docket last Monday in the absence of Solicitor Cobern, who was held at home by illness.

Georgia Markets Open With 23-Cent Average

Price Range About Same as Last Year; Quality Is Excellent

Prices on the Georgia tobacco market opening yesterday, while not as high as some had hoped for, were considered fair and the averages were considered fair and the averages were considered encouraging to farmers in this section, who will start marketing the 26th of next month.

The general average ranged around 23 cents for the first-day offerings, according to direct information received here from Warehouseman Jimmie Taylor who is temporarily located on the Hahira market. E. P. Cunningham reported an estimated average of 22 cents at Vidalia, some markets claiming averages ranging as high as 26 and 27 cents. Prices for the lower and top grades were about the same as they were last year, but the middle grades were believed some stronger. The quality of the first-day offerings was described as good, and farmers were said to be very well pleased with the prices paid.

Bids ranged from a few cents a pound for inferior grades to as high as 50 cents, the price range for the bulk of the offerings standing between 26 and 29 cents a pound.

Hazelnut reports heavy sales, and an average price of 24 cents. The quality of the offerings was good. Common grades were three to five cents a pound higher than they were a year ago. Medium and good grades are about the same as they were last year.

On the Valdosta market, the growers that offered their weed to the auction in the first sale of the year were satisfied that the price was good. Millions of pounds were offered, and the sale on the first 20 baskets averaged 26 cents. L. A. Senterist, of Naylor, received the high at noon, with 27 cents.

From Nashville, Ga., the report was "Quality fair, tobacco is averaging between 20 and 23 cents."

Development of Old Hassell Property To Get Underway Soon

Purchasing the old Hassell home on Smithwick Street a few days ago from the Central Investment Corporation, Messrs. Julius S. Peel and C. H. Godwin are making extensive plans to develop the property in the early fall, the new owners announced today.

Tentative arrangements are now underway to convert the home into five apartments and add possibly 15 rooms for tourists, the present program calling for a complete remodeling of the present structure. Definite plans for developing the property will be formulated as rapidly as possible preparatory to starting on the project early this fall.

No cost estimates are available just now, but the project promoters explained that they planned to convert the property into a modern apartment-tourist home, the total cost approximately probably \$12,000 or \$15,000.

The need for additional living quarters continues acute here, and the undertaking proposed by Messrs. Peel and Godwin should relieve, partially, at least, the situation. Calls for homes, and business property, too, continue with regularity, and it is with interest that the local people learn of the proposed new development.

Service Cleaners To Move To Main Street Location

The Service Cleaners, Coy Lamm, proprietor, are moving over the week-end into the building recently vacated by the VanDyke Furniture Company, next to The Enterprise office building on Main Street. The establishment owner plans to complete the moving task in about two days.

Mr. Lamm recently bought the building from Mr. J. E. King and is said to have paid \$5,000 for the property.

Watson Second Man Convicted in County Executed at Raleigh

Was First White Man To Die In Execution Room From Martin County

Alvin W. Watson, murderer, was the first man convicted in the courts of this county to die in the State's gas chamber, Raleigh, and the second sentenced in the county, to be executed since the rope and scaffold were outlawed in North Carolina more than a quarter of a century ago.

Watson, who was killed this morning, was the first white man tried and convicted in this county to pay the supreme penalty since the gallows were abolished.

Brad Bagley, colored man convicted of murder in this county in 1911, was the first from this county to die in the electric chair. Bagley murdered Policeman White in Williamston on the night of August 15, 1911. He was tried the following month and found guilty. Judge C. M. Cooke sentenced him to die on November 17, 1911. Bagley appealed and lost.

There are variations in the records, but it is believed that the man was electrocuted on May 17, 1912. The certificate of death, signed by prison authorities and witnesses, states that Bagley was electrocuted on Friday, May 17, 1911, but that was nearly four months before the murder.

George Frank Bazemore, Martin County colored man, was electrocuted in 1927 for the murder of Gordon Yelverton in November, 1926. The crime, however, took place in Greene County.

Commissioners Will Meet Monday Night

A tax levy for the current year will receive attention when the Williamston town commissioners meet in regular session next Monday evening at 8 o'clock, the treasurer stating this morning that the audit of the books was just about completed and that the budget figures would be available by meeting time next Monday.

A reduction, perhaps small, has been recognized as a possibility in the town rate this year, but the extent of the change rests on problems that will be discussed by the authorities.

As far as it could be learned today, no other official business except that of a routine nature has been scheduled for consideration at the next Monday evening meeting.

One of Three Positions In Local School Faculty Filled

Samuel R. Edwards, young Wamamie (Pa.) man, today was named science teacher and athletics director in the local high school, succeeding Larry Wade, resigned. Contracts are pending for the two positions made vacant early this week by the resignations of Miss Annie Shields VanDyke and Professor Milton Griffin. All positions in the faculty will likely be filled within the next few days, Principal D. N. Hix said today.

Young Edwards is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State Teachers' College and during the past two years was a member of the Currituck school faculty.

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Reports Say Middle Grades Bringing Higher Prices Than Year Ago

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Promoters Plan To Convert Building into Apartments And Tourists' Home

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