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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, November 26, 1937.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Needy Get \$1,156.00 Under Security Plan In County Monthly

County Pays \$306.08 As Its Share Under Security Plan

The aged, dependent children and blind in Martin County are now receiving a combined total of \$1,156 monthly under the social security program, this amount not including administration costs, county home maintenance and interest, hospitalization and other relief activities that cannot be associated with the government's joint welfare plan.

As the first five months of the social security program come to a close, it is apparent that the allowances are hardly sufficient to sustain life, and that the program is far from inclusive. Even though the quotas have not been reached in this county, it is believed that they are not large enough to meet the existing needs. Reports from the county welfare office state that the quotas have just about been reached in some of the classifications which apparently means that the presence of any needy after the allowances have been exhausted will necessarily have to await openings that may be created by death or the inheritance of a tidy sum by one of the recipients from an unheard-of relative.

From 265 applications, the welfare authorities in this county have selected 91 deserving ones in the advanced age class. These 91 old persons are receiving \$758 a month, the county paying \$189.50, the State \$189.50 and the federal government the remainder. Five of the 265 applicants have died since the program was inaugurated the first of last July, and 141 applicants have been rejected. Quite a few of the 265 applicants have died since the program was inaugurated—the first of last July, and 141 applicants have been rejected. Quite a few of the 265 applicants applied for relief just because they were over 65 years of age. Twenty-eight old-age applications are pending in the welfare office of the county.

Applications have been received from 22 blind persons in this county. At the present time, 18 are receiving a total of \$193 monthly or an average of \$10.72. Martin county pays \$48.25 as its share of the cost incurred in supporting the blind. Two applications have been rejected and two are pending.

Nineteen families in the county have applied for aid to dependent children. To date, thirteen of these cases, representing 44 children, have been approved. Three applications have been rejected and three others are pending. The 44 children in the 13 families are receiving a total of \$205 each month or an average of \$4.65 per child. Martin County pays \$68.34 of this amount.

On an average, each of the 153 Martin County persons participating in the social security program receive \$7.55 a month, a sum that is mighty, mighty small for one to live on for a month and a sum that is considerably below the average for the country, it is understood.

Plan Second Eye Clinic In County

An eye clinic, the second scheduled in this county in recent days, will be held in the offices of Dr. Chas. J. Sawyer in Williamston on December 9, it was announced today by Miss Mary Taylor, head of Martin County's welfare department.

The first clinic held here on Tuesday, November 2, was declared the most successful one held in the state. The need for a second clinic was established at that time and the State Blind Commission readily agreed to cooperate in advancing the valuable work. Twenty-five applications for examinations have already been filed, and present indications are that the clinic will be taxed to capacity.

In the recent clinic held in the county, the eyes of 33 school children were examined. Thirty-one of the number needed glasses. Recommendations were made for the remaining two to take training in the school for the blind.

Glasses are being supplied to nearly all the 31 children by support made possible through local civic organizations.

New Ford To Go On Display Here Tuesday

The new 1938 Ford will go on display in the showroom of the Williamston Motor Company here next Tuesday, Mr. N. C. Green, local dealer, stating today that many marked changes had been made in the car.

Owner Hastens To Claim Money Lost Last Monday

Richard McLawhorn, the Pitt County farmer who lost \$292 in cash near the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. McLawhorn just west of Williamston some time last Monday night, hastened here Wednesday afternoon to identify the money and enter a pleading claim for its return. But the farmer who lives near Winterville, only paid a \$10 reward, a sum that is a bit meagre, to say the least.

Celebratin, and for what he did not explain, McLawhorn had the money in his sock when he stepped out near the McLawhorn home. The pocketbook was found the next morning beside the road by Louise

Duggin, cook for the McLawhorns who are distantly related to the Pitt county farmer. The cook turned it over to Mr. McLawhorn who immediately advertised for the owner. The honesty of the young colored woman stands out in the case, and proves beyond all doubt that there are still some honest persons left in this world.

McLawhorn stated that when he missed the money he was about ready to end his life, explaining that the \$292 represented all his savings for the year. After recovering the money, he was a happy person, and apparently considered the \$10 reward ample.

Thanksgiving Holiday Observed Quietly Here

24 MORE DAYS

Plan now to do your shopping early and with Williamston merchants, for there are only 24 more days in which to complete the task. One of the greatest arrays of Christmas goods ever seen in this section is being placed on display in Williamston stores at this time, and arrangements are complete to open the holiday season in a big way at all local stores.

Now that Thanksgiving is past, merchants are turning their undivided attention to the holiday trade, offering the largest stock of holiday goods ever seen here and at very reasonable prices.

Give the home merchant first consideration—shop in Williamston.

James L. Lilley Dies At Home In Griffins Township

Last Rites For Well-known Farmer Are Being Held Today

James Lawrence Lilley, well-known farmer of Griffins township, died at his home in the Lillies Hall community Wednesday night at 10 o'clock following a brief illness. Suffering a stroke of paralysis about 12 months ago, Mr. Lilley had been in declining health since that time, but he was able to be up and visited in Williamston only last Saturday before he fell victim of pneumonia a day or two later.

The son of the late Staton and Catherine Leggett Lilley, he was born in this county about 56 years ago. Starting from humble circumstances, Mr. Lilley worked hard and was a substantial citizen and well thought of in his community when he died.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Lula Leggett who survives with one daughter, Mrs. Romulus Griffin, of Griffins Township. He also leaves one brother, Paul Lilley, of near Williamston. A brother, Joe Lilley, died near here, just a few weeks ago.

Mr. Lilley was an unpretentious man, a hard worker and one who found pleasure in doing for others. He asked few favors for himself and valued the friendship of his fellowman. His advantages in life were few, but he struggled to overcome those handicaps to get ahead in life, always humbling himself before his Maker.

Funeral services were conducted at the late home this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock by Rev. James M. Perry, Christian minister of Robersonville. Burial was in a newly opened cemetery on his farm, near the home.

Young County Man In Airplane Wreck Thursday

Tennison Ayers, young Martin county man, escaped injury when he had to make a forced landing near Powellville over in Bertie county yesterday morning, reports stating that no one was hurt.

According to information reaching here, the crankshaft broke, and Pilot Ayers was forced to land in a farmer's pasture, striking and killing a hog. It was further stated that the plane had to be dismantled before it could be moved.

Postmaster and Mrs. L. T. Fowden spent Thanksgiving with Dr. and Mrs. G. C. Godwin at Sanatorium.

No Serious Wrecks Are Reported Here During The Period

More Than Two Hundred People Pause to Offer Thanks

Thanksgiving Day was quietly observed here and throughout the county according to reports coming from law enforcement offices and from a number of individual sources. No serious wrecks were reported, and there were no hunting accidents. An occasional firecracker was fired by a youth here and there, but the day was marked by quietness from early morning until late last night.

Travel was heavy on the highways of the county during the day but only one minor accident was reported in the county. An employee on the sound bridge turned his big car over on a curve just this side of Gardner's Creek late yesterday afternoon. While the car was damaged considerably, no one was hurt there.

More than 200 local people paused long enough to attend services in the several local churches and offer thanks. Heretofore, union services were held to mark the observance of the day, but this year the individual worship schedules were arranged and more people are reported to have visited the churches to adhere to the real meaning and purpose of Thanksgiving.

The day was marked by sadness in many homes over the county, death claiming six lives during the holiday period. More deaths were reported in this county during this Thanksgiving than on any other holiday in recent years.

Not a single arrest was reported by county officers or by the local police department during the day. One arrest was made in Jamesville to mark a record that promised to be near perfect earlier in the day.

Williamston people, for the most part remained at home holding close to their firesides. While turkey was not found on every table in the community, few people were in want of food, for this section has experienced few or no Thanksgivings in past years when there were more of the good things in life for everybody.

Visitors' day at the country club, near Plymouth, attracted many of our people. Quite a number attended the football game in Chapel Hill and many others visited relatives in various parts of this and adjoining states during the holiday period.

Business was at a standstill with few exceptions, workers in several plants and trades asking the opportunity to continue at their tasks that they may enjoy a longer holiday a month from now.

Nancy Fay Darden Dies In Washington Hospital

Nancy Fay, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dred E. Darden, died in a Washington hospital yesterday afternoon. She was only three days old. Death was caused by a cerebral hemorrhage.

Funeral services were conducted at the grave late yesterday by Rev. Jas. H. Smith, pastor of the local Baptist church. Burial was in the Baptist cemetery.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck Returns From Hospital

Entering a Richmond hospital last Tuesday, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck returned home Wednesday afternoon after undergoing a medical examination. The officer is able to be out, but will return to the hospital with in a short time.

Handle Four Cases In Superior Court First Three Days

Court Suspend Session Until Next Monday For Thanksgiving

After clearing two cases the first day the Martin County Superior court settled down to a slow pace on Tuesday and Wednesday and averaged one case a day, the tribunal spending the greater part of two days on the Samuel Rogerson will case. A second divorce of the term was granted late Wednesday afternoon when the bonds of matrimony between William Huff and Mildred Huff were severed upon the petition of the husband.

A win and a loss for both sides featured the outcome of the Rogerson will case. The effort of the caveators A. B. Rogerson, Mrs. Claudius Rogerson, Mrs. W. S. Gurganus and the Cowen heirs, to set the will aside failed, but certain provisions were ordered entered in the judgment by consent of the caveators and propounders.

The caveators maintained the late Samuel Rogerson did not have complete control of his mental capacities when the will was dictated about two months before his death in 1933. The propounders, Noah and Gilbert Rogers, maintained otherwise. Trial of the case was started Tuesday and evidence was offered until just a short time before noon Wednesday. The attorneys argued the case before the jury until noon, and Judge Burgwyn, presiding, completed his charge and turned the case over to the jury at 3 o'clock. A verdict was reached one hour and a half later.

The judgment directs the propounders to pay to Mrs. Rogerson and Mrs. Gurganus the sum of \$800 and pay \$400 and give a house and lot in Bear Grass to the Cowen heirs.

To Make Study Of Property Classes In Martin County

Classification Group To Direct Survey In This County

A special study to determine the value of homes occupied by owners will be started in this county within the next few days, according to Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger. The survey is being under the direction of the North Carolina Classification-Amendment commission, and will last six weeks or more, it was stated.

A year ago the people voted an amendment to the state constitution providing a \$1,000 maximum exemption on homestead listings. The last Legislature hesitated to place the amendment into effect, claiming at that time no accurate estimate could be offered as to the amount it would reduce taxable property listings and what effect it would have on the tax structure in the several counties. A commission was named to make a study of the number of homesteads in the state and the approximate amount would reduce assessed property values.

It was proposed to allow a \$300 exemption the first year and finally increase that allowance to the maximum of \$1,000. The last legislature deemed it advisable to make a survey of the tax structure before allowing any exemption to the person owning and living in his own home.

The present system of listing taxes makes it difficult to determine the value of any certain piece of property or whether it is occupied by the owner or a renter. No exemption is allowed the property owner on a home when the property is occupied by a renter. The survey is intended to reflect a true picture of taxing conditions as they relate to homestead exemptions and the amount of taxable property will be removed from the books by an exemption of determined size.

Just how the commission plans to go about seeking this information is not definitely known at this time, but a fairly accurate survey is expected. The Works Progress Administration is cooperating in making the survey.

It has been estimated that a \$1,000 exemption allowed every owner occupying his own home would reduce the assessed property valuations in this county by about one million dollars.

The people expressed themselves in favor of a homestead exemption a year ago, and while the last legislature dodged the real issue it is expected that the law makers will have to take definite action at the next session a year from next January.

Agriculture Bills Now Before Congress For Consideration

Both the Senate and House agriculture committees have completed their bills, and argument over the farm situation is already underway on the floor of the Senate and will likely get underway in the House next Monday. The Thanksgiving holiday interrupted argument in the Senate, but Majority Leader Barkley stated yesterday that he plans to hold the body in session today and tomorrow in an effort to pass the farm measure by the middle of next week. The house bill was only approved by the committee Wednesday, and it will take a week or more to complete argument which is scheduled to get underway next Monday.

Action on the farm bills is eagerly awaited by Martin county farmers who are trusting Congress will provide compulsory control for the major crops.

Crop control of a compulsory nature is included in the bills that are now before the Congress, but there is a strong opposition lurking in both houses, and farm leaders in this section are doubtful about the outcome.

So far the Congress has accomplished nothing during the special session getting underway on Monday a week ago. Several major issues are slated for consideration between now and Christmas however, and far-reaching legislation is expected before adjournment.

Survivor of the 'Maine' Dies at Home in County

Jas. M. Jones Last Rites Tomorrow at Jamesville Home

Was on U. S. Battleship When It Was Sunk in Havana Harbor

James Milton Jones, Spanish-American War veteran and survivor of the "Maine," died at his home in Jamesville yesterday afternoon at 1:15 o'clock, his death marking the end of a long period of declining health. He had been confined to his bed for three weeks and was unconscious for more than seven days. Pneumonia was given as the immediate cause of his death.

The son of the late Milton-Elijah Jones and wife, Mr. Jones was born and reared in Washington county, near Roper. When a small lad, he entered the navy where he served fourteen years. He was on the United States battleship "Maine" when it was mysteriously sunk in Havana harbor on the night of February 15, 1898. More than 250 men lost their lives there, but Mr. Jones was one of the few to escape.

Soon after the Spanish-American war he returned to his native home and a few years later was married to Miss Alethia Reason, who survives. Twenty-six years ago he moved to this county and located in Jamesville where he lived and quiet and unpretentious life. He was well known in that community and was highly respected as a citizen. He was a member of the Christian church there, and his pastor, Rev. D. W. Arnold, of Washington, assisted by Rev. J. H. Smith, pastor of the Baptist church here, and Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister, will conduct the last rites at the late home tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock. Interment will follow in the family cemetery, near the home.

Besides his widow he leaves eight children, Mrs. Ezra Bailey, of Richmond; Mrs. W. T. Barco, of New York City; M. E. Jones, Mrs. Albert Wilson and J. B. Jones, all of Richmond, and Rudolf, Floyd and Bobbie Jones, all of Jamesville. He also leaves two brothers, Major Jones, of Colerain, and Con Jones, of Richmond, and two sisters, Mrs. Emma Reason, of Dardens, and Mrs. Henry Mayo, of South Creek, Beaufort County.

Young County Man Gets Law License

Presented to the court by Attorney H. G. Horton, member of Martin County Bar association, Clarence Walton Griffin, young county man, was granted his license to practice law in North Carolina by Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn in Superior court here Tuesday. The young man, now working for his doctor of jurisprudence degree in the University of North Carolina, was granted leave of absence to appear before the court.

Lawyer Griffin is the young son of Mrs. Mary E. Griffin, of Griffins Township. During his stay in the University he has maintained a splendid scholastic record, and is a young man of sterling qualities.

Mr. Griffin stated yesterday that he had made no definite plans for the future, that he will continue to center his attention on his studies in the University until the middle of next January when he completes his work there. There is a possibility he will locate in his home county or in some nearby section.

Finish Survey Of Unemployed Here Early This Week

Is Doubtful If Census Will Prove of Any Great Value

A voluntary census of unemployed in this section was completed this week when the survey cards were classified in the local postoffice and forwarded to checking centers of the government.

No official count or reports on the findings of the survey could be had here officially, but reports coming from various sources indicate that the census will not reflect anything like true conditions in this immediate section. Many who had employment but thought they may be able to get better jobs by participating in the survey filled in the answers to the questionnaire and returned the cards. Numbers of cards were returned by tenants after farming all the year under some if not very favorable conditions. Probably they are now out of employment, but they have been busy during most of the year and under those conditions were not subject to participate in the survey.

It is estimated that fewer than 100 cards claiming unemployment were returned to the office here out of a territory of approximately 10,000 people. Possibly 300 cards claiming only part-time employment were returned. Industry and the trades in this immediate community report no surplus labor just at this time, and it would appear that few if any cards claiming unemployment or only part-time employment would have been returned. But after all there is some unemployment, but the numbers are comparatively small, and most of the unemployed cases are not trained for the class of work available here.

There were a few who failed to pay any attention to the cards, some stating that they sincerely believed it was another draft for war service, and that a signature on one of the cards was just as good as a guaranteed pass to the battle front against the Japanese some where in China. These cases were rare. Then some of those unemployed just could not find time to fill in the cards. Others without work wanted no work, and they did not trouble themselves about answering the questions and returning the cards.

George Stubbs Lilley, highly respectable Martin County citizen, died in the county home near here last evening at 7:10 o'clock following a stroke of paralysis suffered a week ago today. He had been unconscious since shortly after the stroke. Mr. Lilley, 68 years old, had been in declining health for several years.

Mrs. Roxana Cowen Dies At Home Here Early Last Evening

Was One of Town's Oldest Citizens; Funeral This Afternoon

Mrs. Roxana Boyette Cowen, one of Williamston's oldest citizens, died at the home of her son, Joe Cowen, on Main Street, here last night at 9 o'clock. Taken ill with pneumonia about two weeks ago, Mrs. Cowen was thought to be getting along very well until day before yesterday when she suffered a relapse and her condition became critical over night. She lingered at death's door all Thanksgiving day, the end coming peaceably early that night.

The daughter of the late Richard and Penelope Boyette, Mrs. Cowen was born near Williamston 86 years ago last August. In early womanhood she was married to Henry Cowen who died in 1914.

For more than half a century she was a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist faith, holding membership in the church at Skewarkey. About three years ago she fell and broke her hip and has been an invalid since. During that time she suffered much, but she bore her suffering without complaint. She was a member of the old school that placed more value on the finer things than on the passing fancies of rising generations. She enjoyed the friendship of many, and while the last few years of her life were marked by the suffering of an invalid she looked on the bright side of things and held a great hope for the future.

She was the last member of a family of twelve girls, and leaves three sons, Messrs. Joe Cowen and Herbert Cowen, of Williamston, and Chas. Cowen, of Washington county.

Funeral services are being conducted at the late home at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon by Elder B. S. Cowin. Interment will follow in the family plot in the Baptist cemetery here.

Firmen Called To Fire On Washington Street

Williamston's volunteer firemen were called to a grass fire on Washington street yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, the alarm breaking the peace and quiet that marked the observance of Thanksgiving Day in this little town.

The fire burning in thick grass and dead weeds threatened nearby buildings. Using a small hose and water from the truck tank, the firemen had the fire out within a few minutes.

Peanut receiving warehouses in Williamston are two days behind in their grading work.

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