

Prominent Woman Dies In Jamesville Early This Morning

To Hold Last Rites for Miss Della Smithwick Sunday Afternoon

Miss Della Smithwick, highly esteemed and greatly beloved citizen of this section, died at her home in Jamesville this morning at seven o'clock. She had been in failing health for some time, her condition becoming critical several weeks ago.

Miss Smithwick was born in Williams Township, the daughter of the late Joel and Matilda Gibson Smithwick. Her family was prominently connected in the founding of this county and occupied a prominent place in the political and social affairs of eastern North Carolina for many years. Miss Smithwick, one of Jamesville's oldest citizens, enjoyed a large friendship throughout the community. She interested herself in the religious activities there, and was a valuable friend to education. She was possessed of a quiet character and a great understanding, always lending her aid to help the worthy and promote the general welfare of her people.

When quite young, Miss Smithwick moved with her family to Jamesville from the old Smithwick plantation in the islands section of Williams Township. She became interested in the social life of that section at an early age, and was a member of the Primitive Baptist church in Jamesville for a long number of years. Elder P. E. Gotsinger and Rev. W. B. Harrington, county ministers, will conduct the funeral services at the late home Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Interment will follow in the family cemetery on the old Smithwick plantation in Williams Township.

Miss Smithwick, a direct descendant of Edwin Smithwick, who represented this county in the State legislature in 1778, is survived by only one sister, Mrs. Joel S. Mayo, of Clayton. She was a sister of the late Dr. J. E. Smithwick, prominent physician of this county for a number of years.

Special Officer Releases Report

Illicit liquor manufacturers continue to operate in this county but their activities are being carried on under a great handicap, and it is now believed that the business is being handled on a small scale. During last month, according to a report filed by Special Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck, eight liquor manufacturing plants were wrecked in the county. Three arrests were made, the defendants receiving a total of eleven months on the roads. One \$50 fine was imposed.

The officers poured out 4,100 gallons of beer and about 55 gallons of liquor.

Shirley Griffin, One Year Old, Dies Tuesday

Shirley Griffin, one year old, died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will R. Griffin, in Griffins Township, last Tuesday night of pneumonia, following a brief illness.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. W. B. Harrington, Baptist minister. Interment was in the Griffin cemetery, in Griffins Township.

Needy Enter Pitiful Appeals That They Be Remembered

Pitiful appeals coming in from the needy of this community clearly indicate that the happiness of many at the Christmas time will depend largely on the Christmas cheer movement now getting underway here through the efforts of the several civic organizations, volunteer firemen and others.

"Please send us a bag of sugar for Christmas. We want to make some pull candy that day," a little tot who has experienced actual hunger and want right here at our very doors begged in addressing a pitiful appeal to those who would do all in their power to carry happiness to the firesides of the less fortunate. Nothing more than a few pounds of sugar was asked for, showing that just a little will make possible a great deal of happiness.

On Friday afternoon of next week, Professor D. N. Hix will direct a canvass by the Boy Scouts into the

Christmas Lights To Burn On Streets Here Tomorrow

While local merchants continue busily engaged in placing one of the largest stocks of Christmas goods on their store shelves in many years, local streets will not take on a holiday appearance until tomorrow evening when nearly 2,000 colored lights, strung in decorative style throughout the business districts, start burning. Williamston's holiday dress is being considerably added this year. Hundreds of yards of mountain laurel is being used in the decorative scheme this season, and additional lights will be placed in the unbroken chain from near Courtney's store to the Houghton street intersection and from Main Street through the Washington street business section.

Individual decorations in Williamston this year are certain to break

all past records. There is more interest in tidying up and decorating for the holiday season than ever before, and the supplies of decorative material in stock here will be nearly exhausted before the joyful task is completed. The courthouse gang and Williamston police aggregation are not making public their plans for dressing up the county's old house of justice and the old town hall, but rumors have it that each group has something up its sleeve. The keen rivalry in trying to beat the other with their decorations is remembered by both groups and the public who admired the efforts of each two years ago. Prizes have been mentioned for the best decorations this Christmas, but plans for a friendly contest among the decorators will not be released until some time next week.

Farmers Applying for Soil Benefit Payments

HOLIDAYS

The several schools in this county will close on the afternoon of December 21 for the Christmas holidays, according to official information received from school authorities today. According to the report received, most of the schools will re-open on Wednesday, December 29. One or two schools have asked permission to delay the re-opening until January 3 that those teachers living in other states may have more than two or three days to visit with the families. The delayed re-opening will be effective for the Robersonville schools and possibly one or two others.

Red Cross Funds Total Nearly \$200

The receipt of membership fees and contributions from several sections of the county yesterday boosted the Red Cross Roll Call fund in the Martin chapter to nearly \$200, Chairman Harry A. Biggs announced today. Several of the schools, including those at Oak City, Hamilton, white and colored, Jamesville and Williamston, reported their collections along with a number from Hamilton and Williamston.

Names not previously acknowledged are:

Hamilton white school, \$3.00; Hamilton colored school, \$1.50; Asa Johnson, W. S. Rhodes, Mrs. Ruth Ewell, Mrs. Helen C. Andrews, Mrs. Ballard and Miss Effie Waldo; Oak City School, \$4.20; Williamston graded school, \$14.49; Williamston high school, \$13.92; Jamesville schools, \$12.00; Mrs. W. S. Hunt, Mrs. Samuel Polk Woodford, Mrs. W. Harrell Everett, Mrs. Julian Harrell, Mrs. Jay Griffin, Mrs. W. O. Griffin, Mrs. J. H. Saunders, Mrs. C. G. Crockett, Mrs. Martha Leggett, Mrs. Claude Griffin, Mrs. A. J. Manning, Jr., T. B. Brandon, Mrs. McKimmon Saunders, C. C. Parker, Mrs. Leslie Fowden, Mrs. P. B. Cone, Dr. A. J. Os-teen, D. E. Darden, Guaranty Bank and Trust Co., Dr. John F. Thigpen, and other contributions, \$2.48.

The chapter was assigned a quota of \$350, the total collections now amounting to \$188.09.

Not More Than 900 Participated In Program For 1937

Benefit Payments Are Not Expected to Exceed \$125,000.00

Martin County farmers started this week applying for their benefit payments under the 1937 soil conservation program, reports from the office of the county agent stating that the local committeemen will receive the applications in the various districts. The first of the applications were filed in Cross Roads, and it is planned to receive those from Bear Grass farmers next, continuing the work from there with the expectation of receiving all the applications in the county during this month. Farmers will be advised direct when to file applications for the benefit payments.

Complete figures are not available just now and will not be known until all applications for benefits are received, but it is certain that Martin farmers will not be eligible to participate in the payments to the same extent they participated a year ago. Under the 1936 program, Martin farmers received approximately \$187,000 in benefit payments. This year the payments are not expected to exceed \$125,000, and there is some doubt if they will pass \$100,000.

Less than 90 per cent of the farms in the county are covered by work sheets, and in not more than 10 per cent of the cases have the farmers qualified for maximum payments under the program. Reports from the agent's office show that 1,254 farms in the county are covered by work sheets, and it is estimated that not more than 900 of them will be eligible to receive minimum payments under the soil conservation program.

Martin farmers, just as a majority of those everywhere else, deserted the soil conservation program to a great extent this year. Several hundred planted their base allotments, and many of those who held their plantings below the base figures did not effect any great reductions and large acreages and bumper yields followed for most crops.

The application forms for the farmers to fill in are not very complicated, and can be easily executed if the growers will record their acreages, both soil-building and depleting, and have the information ready when they enter their applications for payment. This information will be checked in the office of the county agent with compliance reports prepared by the county supervisors who have just about completed their work in the county.

Payments will reach the farmers some time during March or April of next year, it is understood.

Those farmers who fail to apply direct to their community committeemen for their 1937 payments, can file applications in the office of the county agent. The community committeemen will receive applications during two or three days in each of the townships, and farmers are urged to apply for payments with them at the time and place to be specified directly to them. Applications from farmers in Williamston and Poplar Point Townships will be received direct in the office of the county agent. It is understood that the earlier the farmers get their applications in the sooner the payments will be made.

Trial Of \$60,000 Suit Nearing End In Superior Court

Miss Jean VanDeusen Is Awarded \$1,000 in \$15,000 Suit

The two weeks special term of Martin County Superior Court is nearing a close here this afternoon as counsel in the \$60,000 damage suit of Lemmond and Stone against W. I. Skinner Company prepared to address its argument to the jury after spending two days hearing the mass of evidence. Adjournment for the term is possible late today, but if the case runs its regular course the jury will hardly start its deliberations before tomorrow morning.

Only two cases have occupied the attention of the court this week, but they fell into the class of important ones, and Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, presiding, has been unduly patient in providing fair trials.

The \$15,000 damage suit of Miss Jean VanDeusen against J. H. Saunders, Jr., started last Monday, was completed Wednesday morning, the jury rendering a verdict in the sum of \$1,000 for the plaintiff after deliberating briefly. Considered contrary to the weight of the evidence, the \$1,000 verdict is subject to be set aside if the defense insurance company refuses to substantially increase the amount. Counsel for the parties to the action will argue the motion before Judge Burgwyn in Wilson next week. The sum awarded by the jury was considered very small.

A hurried start last Wednesday noon marked the \$60,000 suit of Stone and Lemmond against Skinner. The selection of a jury was completed in a very short time, and the plaintiff offered its first witness, M. L. Lemmond, driver of the car that was struck on March 1, 1936, by a Skinner truck between here and Windsor. Fourteen witnesses, M. L. Lemmond, Perry Hood, W. S. Hunt, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, Deputy J. H. Roebuck, Dr. Ramsey, Dr. Larkin, Mrs. Perry Hood, a passenger in the Lemmond car, R. Howard Stone, Mrs. R. Howard Stone, Walsy Latham, Jonah Clemmons, Roland Latham and Stella Fisher, were placed on the stand by the plaintiffs in building up their case. The plaintiff rested at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and a motion of nonsuit was made by the defense. Judge Burgwyn denied the motion, explaining that there was apparent the "permissive use" of the company's trucks by its employees on Sundays.

The defense then offered its first witness, Mr. J. E. King, president of the Skinner firm. A recess was taken following his testimony until this morning when Mr. W. I. Skinner, Bill Meyers, F. W. Hoyt and Malcolm Simpson took the stand. The defense rested at 11:30 and the plaintiff offered rebuttal testimony by Stone and Lemmond.

While the plaintiffs, represented by Percy McMullan, of Elizabeth City, Sidney B. Lutin, of Norfolk and E. S. Peel of Williamston, were centering their attention in establishing their case after a point of law, the evidence of Drs. Ramsey and Larkin carried weight in the minds of the court spectators. It was pointed out that Stone had had nine operations on his eye, that splinters driven into his head in the accident, had not been removed in their entirety.

High spots in the trial centered around the questioning of Percy McMullan, plaintiff attorney. Attorneys Seawell, of Norfolk; W. A. Worth, of Elizabeth City and Martin and Critcher, of Williamston, are representing the defense.

A motion made by the defense at noon today for a nonsuit was denied and argument was started on the issues that will be given the jury. It is believed that most of the afternoon will be used by the attorneys in their arguments to the jury, that if the case is completed and adjournment ordered, the tribunal will have to hold a night session.

Little Boy Tires Of Proceedings In Court

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Howard Stone, after listening quietly for long hours to the court proceedings in the \$50,000 damage suit of his father against Skinner, appealed to his mother this morning that he be spared a continuation of the ordeal. "Mamma, I am tired of coming to this church, can't I stay out and play?" the little fellow was reported to have said. Very few people have attended the proceedings in the court this week, the case before Judge Burgwyn being of little interest to the people of this county, as a whole.

Inspector Here Today to Select Site for New Federal Building

The selection of a site for Williamston's proposed \$78,000 postoffice building is expected momentarily following a visit here today by Inspector Dauch of the postal department.

Possible locations have been inspected, but at noon today no decision had been reached, it was unofficially learned. It was learned however that the prices asked for several of the lots were thought to be too high, but that these differences could possibly be reconciled. Inspector Dauch is investigating minute details before selecting a site, and he has talked to a number of local people in an effort to learn the desire of the general public. Especial attention has been given

the possibility of locating the new federal building either on Main or Smithwick streets, but it was reliably learned at noon today that no definite location had been determined.

Postmaster Leslie T. Fowden said this morning that he was not certain when Inspector Dauch would make his decision, that possibly he would delay taking action for several days.

While local people have their preferences for locating the new postoffice, there has been no expressed opposition to any of the several possible sites that have been mentioned for consideration. They seem to welcome the idea of getting a new postoffice and making secondary the site.

Plans Formulated For Opening Library Here

Steering Committee Announces Drive for 1,500 Founding Fund

Much Interest Shown As Civic Leaders Get Behind Project

Certain to meet one of this community's greatest needs, plans were formulated last evening for the opening of a public library in Williamston. The action, delayed these many years, was taken when an interested group of citizens representing the town and the several civic organizations met in the office of Mayor John L. Hassell and outlined plans for establishing a library and creating a \$1,500 founding fund.

Realizing the great need of a public library here and supported by an increasing interest on the part of the general public in such an undertaking, the little group of civic-minded citizens effected an organization to handle the task, and the movement while only a few hours started is gaining momentum rapidly. Headed by Rev. John L. Goff as permanent chairman and Mrs. Jas. C. Cooke as secretary and treasurer the library movement's steering committee reported a very, very successful meeting last evening with Mayor Hassell representing the town, Messrs. R. L. Coburn, Jas. H. Smith, E. F. Moseley and J. C. Manning representing the Kiwanis club, Mr. Claude Plyler, the Lions club; Mrs. J. C. Cooke, the Junior Woman's club, and Mrs. E. F. Moseley, the Senior Woman's club.

Wednesday, December 15, has been designated as Library Day in Williamston, the committee explaining that at that time a concerted drive would be made for a founding fund of \$1,500. Representatives of the various organizations will make the canvass. Local people are earnestly urged to consider the importance of the undertaking, the lasting benefits that are to be derived and the urgent need for a public library here, and welcome the canvassers when they make their calls on Wednesday, December 15.

The steering committee, certain that the undertaking will receive a ready support and the attention it deserves, are going ahead with their plans for opening a library in this community. These plans will be released immediately following the completion of the \$1,500 campaign.

It has been pointed out that the movement to establish a library here offers a real opportunity for the citizenship of this town and community to promote its own well being, to aspire to finer and better things.

There is a strong support behind the movement from the start, it can not fail.

New Decorations Attract Favorable Comment Here

Hardly before they were placed, Williamston 1937 Christmas decorations in the business sections were attracting very favorable comment today. The wires, feeding the nearly 2,000 lights, have been wrapped with mountain laurel, making the decorations show up to a greater advantage than they did a year ago.

Move to New Home

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Hayman and family and Miss Natalie Gould, sister of Mrs. Hayman, are moving tomorrow from Roberson's Avenue to the new home recently built by Mr. H. A. Bowen on Warren street.

Plan Construction Country Church In Griffins Township

Building Committee Hears Plans at Meeting Wednesday

Plans for the construction of a new country Baptist Church on the site of the old Township House in Griffins Township were formulated by a building committee in meeting at Stephen Manning's store last Wednesday evening. Rev. W. B. Harrington, county minister, stating following the meeting that the construction project was now a certainty.

Based on the Piney Grove Baptist Church membership, the new church will continue with that name. Rev. Harrington, the pastor, adding that the present church is located to one edge of the membership, that the new building will be nearer in the center of the 46 members. The old church will be abandoned as soon as the new house is completed late next spring or early summer, it was stated.

The building committee, composed of Messrs. Noah Peel, Claude Harrison, Frank Lilley, Mrs. Bell Harrison, Stephen and B. R. Manning and Rev. W. B. Harrington, are proposing a structure 34 by 65 feet with connecting Sunday school rooms. Members of the church have pledged timber and some money. Others, including non-members, have pledged their labor, and work in getting the timber sawed and placed on the site is scheduled to get underway in a week or ten days. Considerable interest has been shown in the expansion program of the church, the pastor stating that he believed little difficulty will be experienced in having the building ready for use during the coming coming.

Owners of the site are moving old buildings to new locations, making ready for construction work. At the present time only three denominations, Primitive Baptist, Christian and Baptist, have churches in the district.

Number Diphtheria Cases In This County

Williamston had a small epidemic of diphtheria last month, according to a report released by the office of Part-time Health Officer J. H. Saunders this week. The presence of the disease did not reach alarming proportions by any means, the report of communicable diseases for the period showing there were a dozen cases of diphtheria most among the white population in Williamston. While most of the victims were children, several grown people had the disease, the report shows.

In addition to the diphtheria cases, the report shows there were three cases of scarlet fever in Robersonville among the white population and one chicken pox case in Williamston.

County And Town Board Commissioners To Meet

Routine matters will occupy the attention of the county and town commissioners in their respective meetings next Monday morning and evening.

The reorganization of the county board is slated for a change according to the calendar, but in an "off" year it has been the custom of the county authorities to continue with their organization unchanged. No changes in the other personnel is expected either. Financial reports are due from the various county heads, but these reports are rendered monthly.

Time Magazine Editor Poor Shot, But A Real Sportsman

John Martin, managing editor of Time Magazine, is a poor shot but he is a real sportsman, it was learned here following a hunting trip in this county this week by the newsman and his companion, Mrs. Grace H. Ross, of Virginia Beach and Garden City, N. Y.

"They fired several shots at a wild turkey, but never touched a feather," County Game Warden Bill Abbott said after accompanying the noted visitors on a brief hunting trip last Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Martin saw several deer during his two-day hunting jaunt in this county, but "they were too pretty to shoot," he was quoted as saying. Several squirrels owe their lives to their beauty, the sportsman appar-

ently valuing a visit with the wild game in its native haunts more than he did in bringing down birds, deer and squirrels at the end of a gun.

The two visitors were greatly impressed with the game setting in this section, according to Warden Abbott who added that they planned to return here again this season. Editor Martin plans to send a group of photographers to this section to get pictures of wild game. He wants a picture of the wild turkey, Warden Abbott said.

Mr. Martin is a great hunter, but this week was the first time he had to go out and hunt game, the warden explaining that ordinarily game was released for him from pens. The hunters seemed to enjoy their trip to this section.