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VOLUME XLI—NUMBER 8

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, January 28, 1938.

ESTABLISHED 1899

## Judge H. O. Peele Imposes Heavy Fine In Recorder's Court

### Two Young Men Fined \$250 Each and Sentenced to the Roads

Judge Herbert O. Peele rapped down on alleged violators of the liquor laws in this county last Monday when he imposed the second largest fines during his stay on the bench and capped the fines off with six months sentences on the roads. Other conditions were entered in the judgment, the action in the dual case adding interest to conversations in and all around the county's hall of justice.

Brought into court on a charge of transporting illegal liquors, C. B. and Perlie Hardison entered pleas of not guilty. The State tightened its case, and the two defendants were adjudged guilty. The prosecution maintained that the two men were operating a car loaded with 20 gallons of liquor in the Spring Green section of the county on or about the fourth of this month. Officers punctured a tire on the car with a pistol bullet, and the driver and his companion abandoned the machine and escaped across Lester Everett's cotton patch. The two defendants were later arrested and charged with operating the car.

Judge Peele fined each of them \$250 and imposed a six months sentence on the roads. License to operate a car was revoked for one year, and the car, property of C. B. Hardison, was ordered confiscated. The defense excepted to the confiscation order, and appealed to the higher courts. Bond in the sum of \$500 each was required. Unable to raise that amount, the boys went to jail not certain but that they will go ahead and serve the sentences. It is understood that should they serve the road term and not pay the fines they will be returned to the roads for an extra term.

The two young men were released late Tuesday under bonds furnished by Mrs. Lenora Godard.

The court continued three cases Monday and tried two others besides the Hardison case. Charged with bastardy, Tommy Jones was directed to pay \$5 a month for the use of an illegitimate child during the next six months and report for further judgment at the end of that time.

Floyd Caine, charged with reckless driving, was fined \$10 and had his license revoked for a period of three months.

## Geo. Williams Dies Near Robersonville

Geo. Williams, Martin County farmer, died at his home near Hassell last Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock following an illness of six weeks with cancer. Mr. Williams, well known in this section, was 47 years old.

He was the son of the late Seth Williams and wife of this county. In early manhood he married Miss Ella Ayers, who survives with three children, a young son and Mrs. Charlie Hux, of Oak City, and Mrs. Woodard Leggett, of Hassell. He also leaves three brothers, Messrs. Seth, Jesse, and Bud Williams, all of this county, and five sisters, two of them living in Philadelphia, and Mrs. Lydia Corbett, of Greenville; Mrs. Mamie Knox, of Robersonville, and Mrs. Willie Ayers, also of this county.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home yesterday afternoon. Interment was in the old family burial ground, near Robersonville.

## School Attendance in This County Now on the Decrease

Meeting here yesterday afternoon, the several Martin County school principals advanced the belief that the attendance upon the white schools in the district has reached a saturation point and offered facts to indicate that a decrease is to be expected in the future. While the attendance percentage upon the ten white schools in the county is above that of last term, the total enrollment is smaller, it was pointed out by J. C. Manning, county superintendent, yesterday.

Colored families are supplanting white tenants on many of the farms in the county, it was pointed out. The change is effecting an increase in the number of pupils in the colored schools, and limiting the field for the white units to draw from. A decrease of 50 pupils has been

## NEW HOME OF NORTH CAROLINA EQUIPMENT COMPANY HERE



The North Carolina Equipment Company will hold the formal opening of its recently completed plant here on Saturday of next week. Plans for the big event are being formulated, and a cordial invitation is being extended farmers of this and adjoining counties to be present. Moving pictures will be shown and demonstrations held, followed by a big barbecue at 12:30. All those who plan to attend are asked to fill in the invitation appearing elsewhere in this paper and forward it to the company at Williamston.

## Prominent Local Man Died Thursday 4 P. M.

### NO MACHINES—YET

Although given legal recognition through an injunction issued by Federal Judge I. M. Meekins and served on local and county officers a few days ago, the "silent salesman" slot machine has not made its appearance in this county, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said today.

A hearing is being held in Washington today in an effort to have the injunction dissolved, and it is believed no machines will be "planted" in this county until a further decision is made by Judge Meekins. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, Chief W. B. Daniel and Attorneys R. L. Coburn and E. S. Peel are planning to attend the hearing from here.

## Senate Clears Track For Agriculture Bill

The Senate, after the Southern bloc had scored a victory in the fight against the anti-lynching bill, last night cleared the tracks for important legislation in the national congress. The program includes bills dealing with agriculture and housing.

### Educational Meeting Well Attended Here This Week

A meeting of Works Progress Administration forces is being well attended here this week by teachers from 26 counties in Areas 1, 2 and 3. The first of the sessions were held yesterday with Mrs. Manie Rodeffer in charge. Mrs. J. M. Day is presiding over the sessions underway today.

The meeting is attracting statewide leaders in education, and the sessions are recognized as an important step in advancing adult education in the State.

## Funeral Services For Alonzo Hassell to Be Held This Afternoon

### Members of One of Section's Oldest and Most Prominent Families

Alonzo Hassell, member of one of this section's oldest and most prominent families, died in a Washington hospital yesterday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock following a major operation performed nearly two weeks ago. Pneumonia was given as the immediate cause of his death.

He enjoyed perfect health all his life until last October when he suffered an attack believed at that time to have been appendicitis. The attacks were experienced more often during recent weeks, and he entered the hospital about two weeks ago for treatment. An operation was performed on Friday, January 14, and while his condition was recognized as serious, he was thought to have been getting along very well until late Wednesday when pneumonia developed. Little hope was held for his recovery after that time, and the end came rapidly.

The son of the late Dr. Alonzo and Ida Lanier Hassell, he was born in Williamston on October 17, 1876 and lived here all his life, holding a prominent position in the business and social life of the town and community for many years. He was the grandson of the late Elder C. B. Hassell, a prominent and leading figure in the early history of the Primitive Baptist church in this section of the Nation. His forebears, led by his great-grandfather, Jesse Hassell, located in Martin County more than two centuries ago, coming here from Tyrrell County a half century or more before Martin was formed.

Mr. Hassell had a colorful life, much of which was spent serving the people of this section. Finishing his education in the local schools, he attended Oak Ridge Academy and returning home, served as Martin County Deputy Register of Deeds, serving under the late Jas. A. Teel. He later entered the employ of Slade Anderson and Company, working in a store that stood where the Branch Banking and Trust company building is now located. Following the retirement of Mr. Slade from the business, Mr. Hassell was made a partner in the business with the late J. Walter and A. Anderson. When the business was burned out a short time later, he became a member of the firm of J. L. Hassell and Company, and for nearly a quarter of a century he held a prominent place in the business life of the section. His code of business ethics and his friendliness made him popular among thousands of people from all parts of eastern Carolina.

Following the dissolution of the company, he represented the Columbian Peanut company here, and during the past several years held the responsible position of deputy clerk in the Martin County Superior court. In all his work, he proved a faithful and untiring servant of the public. He was a member of the town board of commissioners several terms. In 1902 he married Miss Mattie Bennett and she survives with three children, Mrs. Milton Norman, of

## Presbyterians Will Advance Bear Grass Community Project

### Plan Construction of New Addition for Sunday School There

For some years the Presbyterians at Bear Grass have been using a small community building for various meetings. On Sunday mornings Sunday School classes were held in it. At one time the public school used it for a class room. The young people of the church use it at times, and since Rev. John C. Whitley has been living in Bear Grass it has been used as his study and as a library. Now the building has become too small for the various activities of the church school, the Woman's Auxiliary, the men of the church, and the young people.

A few weeks ago the members of the church began to talk about enlarging this building to take care of the community needs. The men of the church discussed the project and the ladies and young people pledged their help. A building committee was named with the following members: Sidney Beacham, Russell Rogers, Walter Bailey, Mrs. Annie Bell Harrison and Mrs. John Wynne. This committee has already secured pledges to cover the cost of materials and a large amount of rough lumber. The members of the Presbyterian church throughout the county will erect it.

The proposed building will be 22 by 42 feet with an additional front porch. The building will have a large open fireplace at one end and a small stage at the other. The open fireplace will be used to roast weiners and oysters and marshmallows and to pop popcorn. The stage will be used to take care of Bible School and Christmas programs and other social activities. Provision will be made to play handball, shuffleboard, and perhaps volleyball. The building will include 3 class rooms, a kitchen, a library, a sitting room and a study. It is hoped that a Boy Scout troop will be organized soon and they will be given a place to begin a Boy Scout collection.

When this building is completed it will be in keeping with the pretty little brick church owned by the Presbyterians in Bear Grass. It will provide a place for the social and spiritual activities of the thriving little community.

## Colored Parson Has Very Unusual Topic For Sermon

The Rev. J. R. Green, pastor of the River Hill Chapel Church, announces an unusual subject for his sermon topic Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock. The subject: "She lived, she talked, she walked, she died, she didn't go to heaven and she didn't go to hell."

## FEW ASK LICENSES

While general business continues to hold its own locally, the recession is making itself felt in the automobile drivers' license bureau here, reports coming from Examiner McLeod today stating that he is receiving fewer applications for licenses than at any time since he has been with the department. "We are doing fair," Mr. McLeod said, adding that he issued thirteen licenses here yesterday. About ten per cent of the applications are duplicates, the examiner stating that about one out of every ten applicants has lost his driving card.

## Three Fire Alarms Within One Hour Here On Thursday

### Considerable Damage Done to Iron Works and Wier Apartments

Three fire alarms were sounded here within an hour yesterday morning, the third call coming when the apparatus was in operation at the John Wier apartments on Simmons Avenue. Returning from a fire at the Williamston Iron and Metal Works on West Main Street, the volunteer firemen had just checked the fire-fighting apparatus when they were called to the Simmons avenue apartment. While there a came call came from the Lawyer's Building, corner of Main and Smithwick streets. Several firemen were directed to answer the third alarm, and after much water was thrown at the Wier home the apparatus was moved in the Main and Smithwick streets intersection. When it was learned that the Lawyer's building was not on fire, that the volumes of smoke pouring out of the walls were coming from defective flues, the apparatus was returned to the second fire.

Firemen, called to the Williamston Iron and Metal Works at 9:45, spent more than half an hour bringing a stubborn fire under control. Apparently starting from a cigarette, the fire had gained much headway when discovered. W. K. Parker, owner of the iron works, stated that he had left to go into the iron yard, and had been out only a few minutes when he saw the fire spreading to all parts of the building. The structure, used at one time as a filling station but later as an office for the iron works, was wrecked and most of the stock of second-hand automobile and truck tires and auto windshields was ruined. The loss, estimated at about \$750, was only partially covered by insurance.

Starting from a defective flue in an upstairs apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Williams, the fire in the Wier home did considerable damage to partition and roof timbers.

## Construction Work On Church Building To Begin Monday

### Piney Grove Membership and Friends Offer Their Services Free

Offering their services free, members of the Piney Grove Baptist church and friends in other religious denominations in the community will start the construction of a new house of worship on the site of the old Township House in the Griffins district for the Baptists next Monday morning. Rev. W. B. Harrington, pastor and leader of the group, announced yesterday. Under the direction of J. C. Gurkin, a dozen or more men are to report for work next Monday, and others who have the time to spare are invited to participate in the movement. "We are expecting large crowds during the week," Rev. Mr. Harrington said.

Foundation work on the 56 by 36 foot structure will be completed on Monday, weather permitting, and efforts will be made to frame the building and close it in before the week is spent.

All the rough lumber, donated by members of the congregation, has been placed on the site. Others are donating nails and allied building materials, the pastor of the church explaining that friends in other denominations, including the Primitive Baptist and Christian and possibly others, are offering valuable aid in the project. Located on the Manning road, the present church is far from the center of the membership of the church, and definite plans were advanced in late last November to relocate the worship center for the 46 members. Messrs. Noah Peel, Claude Hardison, Frank Lilley, Mrs. Bell Hardison, Stephen and Ben R. Manning and Rev. W. B. Harrington were named on the building committee, and under their direction plans for the edifice have gone forward rapidly. Rev. Mr. Harrington said yesterday they hoped to have the church ready for use by early summer.

## County Liquor Sales Increase Last Quarter

### CHARITY EVENT

"Williamston and community ought to raise more than \$100 in support of the great drive against infantile paralysis," L. T. Fowden, chairman of the local committee sponsoring the President's ball here this evening in the high school gymnasium. It is strictly a charitable move, and all the proceeds will be used in carrying on the fight against infantile paralysis, the chairman added. Paul Jones has been employed to play for the ball here tonight, and the sponsors are expecting a large crowd.

## Building And Loan Underwrites Large Construction Work

### Association Has Advanced Construction Work on Big Scale

A study of the annual statement released this week by the Martin County Building and Loan Association shows that the organization is holding a prominent lead in advancing the material progress of the town and community. The association is now financing a building program that cost well over a quarter million dollars, and the many investments are proving profitable in more than 99 per cent of the cases, reports stating that the association is probably experiencing its most successful period since its organization.

During the past year, it participated to a large extent in the largest building program in the history of the town. More homes were constructed here in 1937 than in any previous year with the possible exception of those periods when numbers of cheap tenant houses were constructed. Approximately 60 per cent of the new homes were financed by the building and loan way, and considerable sums were advanced for repairs to homes. The home builders, after careful surveys were made of other lending agencies, chose the building and loan method for financing their construction program.

At the present time, the organization has \$17,734.68 in undivided profits with a reserve of \$2,500 for contingencies. Its mortgage loans amount to \$256,827.56 and stock loans total \$12,269.21.

In addition to financing home construction, the association has proved a valuable means for accumulating savings for a large number of shareholders. At the present time, shareholders have \$54,100 in paid-up stock and are holding it in the organization as one of the best investments available today.

Even though it operates on a fairly large scale, the association does not own but \$1,162.99 in real estate, its other assets amounting to \$3,130.30 and the total assets standing at \$261,322.59. There is a working margin of nearly \$50,000 between the mortgage loans and the amount represented in installment and paid-up stock. The association is in position and is ready to finance any sound building program, and present indications point to an increase in its business during the current year.

Mr. Joe Lanier, Williamston Township man, is expected to return to his home here today after undergoing treatment in a Washington hospital since last Monday.

## County Health Department Located in Municipal Hall

Martin County's full-time health department will be located in Williamston's town hall, it was announced today after Works Progress Administration forces who have occupied the building during the past year and a half agreed to double up its office employees and surrender four rooms to the health forces. Orders for the equipment are now pending, and while Dr. E. W. Furguson and his assistants will start moving into their new quarters next week, it will be sometime during February before the department will be ready for operation. Mr. Chas. Leonard, son of a Manchuia missionary and a student of Wake Forest College and the United

## Total of \$326,929.40 Is Spent in County Since Stores Opened

### State, County and Towns to Share in \$16,224 Fourth Quarter Profits

Boosted by \$56,179.40 last quarter, legal liquor sales made in this county from the time the stores were opened in July, 1935, up to the first of this month total \$326,929.40, the sales showing an increase in each corresponding quarter during the period. A new high sales record was established during the three months ending last December 31, the sales in that period amounting to \$57,179.40, or \$11,452.40 more than they were in the same quarter, 1936.

The activities of the legal system in the county during last quarter created \$16,224.82 profits for the county, four store towns and the State, the amount including \$1,239.54 for enforcement of the alcoholic beverages control laws. The volume of business, the largest ever handled in any three months since the stores were opened, was handled at the smallest expense of any during the period, Martin County A. B. C. Chairman V. J. Spivey pointing out that the operating expenses were only 6.94 per cent of the sales.

The biggest slice, \$36,626.56, of the \$56,179.40 went to liquor manufacturers. Operating, general and administrative costs amounted to \$3,899.18. The percentage of net profit earned on the sales amounted to 28.97 per cent of the gross sales, Chairman Spivey pointing out that this was about three per cent greater than the average during the first three quarters of the year.

Third quarter profits are to be divided as follows:

Martin County, \$8,721.03; State of North Carolina (7 per cent on gross sales) \$3,929.41; reserve for law enforcement, \$1,239.54; Store No. 1, Williamston, \$1,199.57; Store No. 2, Robersonville, \$754.48; Store No. 3, Oak City, \$22.02; Store No. 4, Jamesville, \$168.77. These amounts represent 20 per cent of the profits accruing at the several stores, as follows: Williamston, \$5,887.87; Robersonville, \$3,772.39; Oak City, \$1,110.12; Jamesville, \$843.87.

Sales during the fourth quarter in each of the stores are, as follows: Williamston, \$27,686.35 or 49.28 per cent of the total; Robersonville, \$1,927.95 or 31.91 per cent; Oak City, \$5,857.70 or 10.43 per cent, and Jamesville, \$4,707 or 8.38 per cent of the total sales.

At the present time, the county A. B. C. board has an inventory including that in the warehouse and stores, valued at \$25,321.66. Accounts payable to distilleries amount to only \$1,393.94.

Quarter Ending	Sales	Profits
Sept. 1935	\$ 22,249.35	\$ 2,743.11
Dec. 1935	37,379.29	9,887.99
March, 1936	25,274.96	4,759.91
June, 1936	21,564.05	3,425.70
Sept., 1936	27,864.59	5,619.93
Dec., 1936	44,727.00	11,661.14
March, 1937	29,771.20	6,563.07
June, 1937	31,640.98	4,484.77
Sept., 1937	30,259.05	2,854.43
Dec., 1937	56,179.40	16,224.82

Totals \$326,929.87 \$68,224.92 Profits for the last quarter were nearly \$5,000 greater than they were for any other period since the stores were established nearly three years ago.

States School of Public Health, Chapel Hill, will report here during the week-end to head the sanitary division of the new department. Miss Elizabeth Long, of Hamilton, has been appointed secretary. Miss Long is a graduate of a secretarial school and has had hospital training. The appointment of two nurses will be made within the next two or three weeks, or just as soon as graduation exercises are held in several schools of public health nursing. Quite a few applications have been received for the positions, Dr. Furguson is attending a special pneumonia clinic in Durham, and Mr. Leonard is taking field work with the department over in Hertford County.