

Town Gets \$52,200 Grant For Improvement Program

Program Planned Williamston Fair For Farmers' Day

Farm Bureau Directors Met And Will Ask Hoey To Speak

Meeting in the Martin County Agricultural building last Friday evening, eighteen directors of the Farm Bureau Federation unit advanced extensive program plans for farmers' day at the Williamston fair week after next. More interest was shown in the plans than at any time since the day was incorporated as a part of the annual fair program, one of the directors explained.

Governor C. R. Hoey will be asked to address the gathering, the Farm Bureau secretary explaining that it may be the chief executive has another engagement and will be unable to speak here that day. An answer is expected this week. Several other prominent speakers have been asked to appear on the program with the governor, but notices of their acceptance has not yet been received. E. F. Arnold, secretary of the State Farm Bureau Federation is expected here to preside over the meeting, the local directors pointing out that a worth-while and entertaining schedule of events would feature the special day program.

Special concessions have been granted the Bureau organization, and admission to farmers will be reduced to 25 cents with no parking charge for their cars.

The entertainment program will carry several head-line features with the farmers participating in them. Several mule races with prizes totaling \$15.00 have been scheduled. Owners may ride their own mules or may hire riders. The regulations for the races are few, but the riders will ride bare back. A mule show is another feature, the management to offer \$10 and \$5 for the best and second best pair of mules, and \$7.50 and \$3 for the best and second best singles.

The National Farm Dance with "Uncle Ezra" scheduled to appear in person, will be staged in front of the grandstand that afternoon as an added feature of the farmers' day program. The farm dance event is the first ever scheduled in this section, and it is expected to attract a large crowd.

Report Four Deaths Here in Recent Days

This little community was stalked by death during the past week-end when four people passed away, two of them going to their graves prematurely.

Alonzo Hassell, 60-year-old colored man, died late last Thursday following a stroke of paralysis. Hassell, a retired carpenter and respected citizen, was buried Sunday afternoon in the Odd Fellows cemetery here.

Mary Mizelle Williams, young colored woman who was married in a big church wedding just a few short months ago, died suddenly at her home on South Smithwick street Saturday morning at four o'clock. Funeral services were conducted at the Corner Stone church on Warren Street yesterday morning at eleven o'clock, and interment was at Elizabeth City.

J. K. Coltrain, retired merchant, died at seven o'clock Saturday morning.

The fourth death was reported when Lee Speller, 31-year-old colored man, was drowned early Sunday morning in the Roanoke River, near here. Last rites for the man are being held this afternoon. Interment will follow near his native home in Bertie County.

Expresses Desire To Be Buried In Sitting Position

Anticipating death within a short time, J. K. Coltrain, for years a local groceryman, made careful plans for his own burial. Several months ago when he outlined the exacting plans, he expressed the desire to be buried in a sitting position and went so far as to discuss plans with a manufacturing plant for the construction of the unusual type of coffin. The specifications were hurriedly drawn, but after discussing the matter with an old friend, Mr. Coltrain abandoned the idea and his body was placed to rest in conventional style.

Encouragement Noted as Prices Advance on Williamston's Tobacco Market This Week

A spirit of optimism prevailed and farmers generally were encouraged as tobacco prices took an upward swing on the Williamston Tobacco Market this week, a review of the records and a survey among farmers clearly establishing the fact that prices are stronger than they were last week. "Tobacco today is selling higher than at any other time this season," one farmer pointed out. While no marked change is noted in the prices of the inferior grades, the better grades are commanding from five to seven cents more this week than they did last, it was generally agreed. Farmers are well pleased and while an occasional tag is turned, the complaints are comparatively few.

The growers are more optimistic, and a good feeling is prevailing throughout the market. Buyers appear more eager for tobacco and bidding is lively. "It looks goods to me," a Bertie farmer said today in commenting on the market.

Several piles were sold in the forty-cent class yesterday, and thirty-cent averages were fairly numerous among individuals.

To date, the Williamston market has sold slightly in excess of two and a quarter million pounds, the official price average yesterday standing right at 24 cents, the supervisor of sales announced. Sales will be completed fairly early this afternoon for today, and heavier offerings are expected the remainder of the week.

Puzzling as it may seem, the State and Federal crop reporting service in its release today shows that tobacco is higher this year than last. The solution lies in the fact that the inferior grades are selling higher and the better grades are not commanding the high prices they did a year ago. The absence of one-, two- and three-cent tobacco is serving to boost the general average. During the first selling days in August, the Williamston market, according to the crop reporting service, sold right at one million pounds for an average of 22.07, a figure that ranks right at the top with the average for the belt. Last year, the market sold in August 367,156 pounds for an average of \$19.78.

Negro, Charged With Burglary, Jailed Here

REORGANIZE

Williamston's High School band, inactive during the past season, will be reorganized on Thursday evening of this week with Professor Lewis Enloe as director. Indications are that the reorganization will be effected with a certain degree of permanency, and all musically inclined youths are urged to be present at the meeting in the high school at eight o'clock.

Director Enloe states that the support and interest of the people will be appreciated in promoting the worth-while undertaking.

Start Tuberculosis Study In County

An extensive study of Martin County high school children for tuberculosis got underway here today, the county health department head stating that the survey will be extended to all the high schools in the county.

Commenting on the survey now underway, Dr. E. W. Furgerson says:

"Usually from 18 to 22 per cent of high school children will show a positive reaction to the tuberculin test. This test is entirely harmless. It tells whether or not the tuberculosis germ (tubercle bacillus) has entered the body. But it tells only that and no more. If it is positive the next step will be to have the patient x-rayed. From the x-ray examination it can be determined whether any damage to the lung has already been done.

"Tuberculosis usually can be arrested if it is discovered soon enough and if the patient works with the doctor. Early discovery is necessary if sufferers are to have a proper chance of arrest or cure, and if spread of infection from undiagnosed open cases is to be prevented."

Fire Alarms Are Close Together

Two fire alarms, one of them false, were received within a few minutes of each other here early last Friday evening. Fire Chief Hall stating that he had been unable to trace the origin of the first call. However, unofficial reports maintain that there was a small fire at a gasoline storage plant near the river, that it did not amount to anything.

Advised to go to the Standard Oil Company filling station, the firemen first went to the station on the corner of Houghton and Main Streets. Finding no fire there they continued to a second Standard station at the Jamesville and Washington Road intersection. From there they went to the river front, and finding no fire there they returned to the station.

A few minutes later a call came from the J. D. Thrower home on Watts Street where a burning chimney filled the house with smoke. No damage was done there.

Yesterday, the firemen were called to sprinkle Marshall Avenue.

John Small To Face Trial for Assaulting Aged White Woman

Arrested At Logging Camp In Northampton County Yesterday

John Small, 30-year-old Negro, charged with first-degree burglary and brutally assaulting Mrs. Lydia Jenkins, aged white woman, near Robertsonville on the night of July 23, was placed in the county jail here yesterday afternoon following his arrest at a logging camp in Northampton County earlier that day.

Vigorously denying the charge, Small stated that he saw no need for holding a preliminary hearing but officers will carry him before Justice J. L. Hassell here tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Mrs. Jenkins, although she continues very feeble, will be able to attend the hearing.

Using an old iron rim fire poker, Small is alleged to have beaten Mrs. Jenkins almost to death about midnight, July 23. He forced his way into the home by breaking through a window, and when he departed it is believed the aged woman's assailant thought her dead.

When Mrs. Jenkins was found about nine o'clock Sunday morning, she was unconscious, and for several days she was not expected to recover. Regaining consciousness, she said that John Small attacked her, and immediately an extensive search reaching into two States was started under the direction of Sheriff C. B. Roebuck. The officer and representatives of the State Bureau of Investigation and Law Enforcement traveled several thousand miles in an effort to trap Small. A \$25 reward was offered for Small's arrest, and yesterday the reward brought results. W. P. Morris, operating a logging camp in the extreme northern end of Northampton County, recognized Small when he reported there for a job. He took Small into custody and carried him to Jackson, Sheriff Roebuck and Patrolman Hunt transferring the accused man to the jail here yesterday afternoon.

Offering a feeble defense in denying the charge, Small admitted that he was in the community where Mrs. Jenkins lived on the night of the attack. He maintains he left there about 8:30, met a certain man, talked with him, and continued to a farm near Stokes where he spent the night at a tobacco barn. Sunday morning, he bought a ticket and boarded the train for Suffolk, Va. After working there a short time he went to Smithfield, Va., and later moved to another Virginia town before going to the logging camp in Northampton County. Checking the man's claims, Sheriff Roebuck points out that Small did talk with a man between Robertsonville and Stokes, but that the conversation took place around one o'clock instead of about 8:30. The officer also pointed out that Small did not know the name of the farmer who owned the tobacco barn where he spent the night. A complete check of Small's movements will be made before the case is called for trial, and while Small maybe innocent, the sheriff points out that he has the man accused by Mrs. Jenkins.

Man Loses Life In River Here Early Sunday Morning

Body of Lee Speller, Colored Man, Recovered This Morning

Lee Speller, 31-year-old colored man, was reported drowned in the Roanoke River just above the Norfolk, Baltimore and Carolina Boat Line dock here early last Sunday morning. In a rapid state of decomposition, the body rose to the surface and was recovered at 10 o'clock this morning by Lee King. Apparently the man had paddled quiet a distance up the river and possibly fell into the water as he started to get out of his boat near his home. The body was seen rounding the bend at the river dock.

Dragging operations were started early Sunday morning after the man's small boat was found drifting near the plant of the Standard Fertilizer Company, several hundred yards from the scene where the man is thought to have lost his life.

Unsuccessful in their dragging operations, friends and relatives soon quit their search for the body, but held a watch over the river.

Called here, Coroner J. E. Smith, of Bertie, investigated the drowning and considered no inquest necessary.

Said to have been drinking Speller was last seen about midnight going to the river to get his small boat and paddle to his home in Conoho, two or three miles up the river. He carried a small supply of groceries and they were found in the drifting boat. Before he left a filling station near the river, he instructed his wife to take their three small children and spend the night here with a relative, that he was going home alone. "He almost got run over by a car, and he was so hard-headed we could not tell him a thing," his wife said as she and her children watched the dragging operations from the river bank Sunday afternoon.

Large crowds milled up and down the river bank to watch the haphazard search for the body, but there was little sign of emotion, his near-kin reasoning that the man had hastened his own end.

Funeral arrangements were made immediately after the body was found, and the last rites are being held this afternoon, interment following near his native home in Bertie County.

Speller, a native of Bertie, came to this county about ten years ago, farming on a small acreage in the Conoho area and working during his spare time with a lumber mill here. He was the third man reported to have lost his life in the Roanoke along the banks in this county so far this year.

FISH STORY

An entirely new kind of fish story came out of Hamilton a few days ago. According to T. Bog Slade, Mr. Reuben A. Edmondson was fishing in the Roanoke and pulled two sizeable carp from the stream. The fisherman hooked another, but that fish got away and snatching the line, Mr. Edmondson in less than a split second hooked, Mr. Slade declares, a 150-pound "succor".

The hook tore through the skin under the fisherman's throat and a doctor had to cut it out.

Add a Second Truck For Transportation Of Colored Children

Thirty-Five Pupils in the Lower Part of County To Come Here

Meeting in special session last Friday, the Martin County Board of Education ordered a transportation system established for colored high school pupils in the lower part of the county, the action of the authorities to add around 35 pupils to the high school in Williamston.

Going before the meeting, colored citizens of the Jamesville, Dardens, Keys, Piney Woods and Williams Lower school communities pledged \$500 for the purchase of a truck chassis, the county to buy a body costing around \$400 and the State to operate the bus. Last year a bus route was established for colored high school pupils in the upper part of the county. Handling quite a large number of children, the bus placed in operation last year serves the Parmele High School. The action last Friday, according to the county superintendent of schools, will virtually bring to an end the consolidation of colored schools in this county, with one possible exception. Under the present arrangements and those advanced at the meeting on last Friday, all colored youths in the county have an opportunity to attend high school except those along the Griffins-Bear Grass Township border line. No movement has been advanced by the colored citizens there to establish a bus route to serve their children.

The new bus route will be established just as soon as the rolling equipment can be delivered, probably within the next week or ten days.

The addition of 35 pupils will entitle the local colored high school to an extra teacher, but there isn't room for another teacher and the present teaching force will have to handle the extra teacher-load. However, crowded conditions in the local colored school prior to the time the addition of the 35 pupils was proposed have been before the board for consideration. The construction of an extra room has been proposed, the county superintendent explaining that it is possible the vocational student class will be called upon to handle most of the construction work.

School Attendance Increases In County

Martin County schools are establishing attendance records this year, the county education board officials explaining that they are well pleased with the way children are reporting for instruction in both the white and colored schools. One school has reported as few as three absences, and preliminary reports show an attendance average above 96 per cent for the county as a whole.

The local white school, Principal D. N. Hix announced this morning, is reporting enrollment increases with the average daily attendance holding up well. Starting the term on September 1, the local elementary school enrolled 546 children, Principal Hix stating there are 590 enrolled today. The high school enrollment has been increased from 209 on opening day to 215 today, making a total of 801 white children enrolled in the elementary and high schools.

It is not likely that the colored schools will close on account of a poor attendance any time soon.

Local Church Conference To Be Held This Evening

A "Local Church Conference" will be held in the Williamston Christian church tonight at eight o'clock with Dr. Will R. Holder as the leader. Dr. Holder, now with the Home Missions Planning Department, was for many years a missionary in Africa. The membership of the church is urged to be present.

Macedonia Church Will Hold Fellowship Meet

The "One Day of Fellowship" meeting for this district will convene with the Macedonia Christian church Wednesday morning at ten o'clock. These meetings are sponsored by the North Carolina Christian Missionary Convention. Lunch will be served on the grounds and the program will close at 3:30.

Grant To Supplement \$72,000.00 Bond Sale

FAIR TRIO



These three attractive young ladies will come to Williamston from Chicago to appear in the National Barn Dance program at the Williamston Fair, September 27-October 1.

James K. Coltrain, Retired Merchant, Dies Here Saturday

Last Rites for Former Local Merchants Are Held Sunday

James K. Coltrain, retired local merchant, died at his home here last Saturday morning at seven o'clock after a lingering illness of tuberculosis. In failing health for several years, he was able to supervise his little grocery establishment on Washington Street until about two months ago when he was forced to his bed.

The son of the late James and Alvina Webb Coltrain, he was born in Bear Grass Township 64 years ago. He spent his early life there and when a young man located in Williamston. After a number of years in the service of J. G. Staton he entered the mercantile business in the store now occupied by D. Pender on Washington Street about 1910. Some years later he moved to the corner of Sycamore and Washington Streets where he successfully carried on his business for a long period, finally selling out his store there and locating a block away on Pearl Street.

Mr. Coltrain joined the Christian church at Macedonia several months ago. He was an unpretentious man, one who minded his own business and withheld criticism of others.

He is survived by one brother, George W. Coltrain, of Hassell, and three sisters, Mrs. Amanda Whitely and Mrs. Lucy Rogers, of Bear Grass, and Mrs. Bettie Griffin, of Griffins Township. He never married.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. John L. Goff, local Christian Church pastor, Sunday afternoon at three o'clock, after the body lay in state at the Biggs Funeral Home on Main Street Saturday night. Interment was in the old family plot in the Taylor Cemetery in Bear Grass Township.

Change Announced In Library Hours

Beginning Monday, Sept. 18, the Williamston Public Library will return to its original schedule. It will be open each day except Sunday from 3:00 to 6:00 p. m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p. m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p. m. on each Saturday morning for children between the ages of 4 and 9.

New books which will be ready for circulation Thursday of this week include:

Debutante in Uniform, Grieg; Youth without Glory, von Hutton; Black Cats Are Lucky, Fielding; A Body Rolled Downstairs, Irwin; The Unvanquished, Faulkner; The Ginger Griffin, Bridge; Love at the Mission, Baptist; Echo of Drums, Pendleton; The Beast Must Die, Blake; Death Walks the Post, Hanson; Murder in Newport, Lambert; Homing, Hill.

Shot from Ambush

Roberta Best, Martin County colored woman, was painfully but not seriously hurt near the Flat Swamp Church yesterday, when she was shot in the back by an unknown assailant.

To Offer \$150,000 Bonds For Sale In Next Few Weeks

P. W. A. Approves Grant For \$52,200 in Record Time

Plans for financing a \$125,000 general improvement program for Williamston were announced virtually complete yesterday when the Public Works Administration approved a \$52,200 cash grant as a supplement to the approximately \$72,000 to be raised by a bond issue. Entering the application less than a month ago, town officials were notified yesterday by T. L. Cole, regional director of the PWA, Atlanta, that the grant had been approved by Secretary Ickes, and that the money will be made available immediately upon request.

In an effort to launch the program activities as soon as possible, local town authorities will likely meet within the next few days to make final arrangements for floating the bond issue which has been completed, and at the special meeting authorities are expected to order the bonds advertised for sale. From thirty to forty days will be required to handle the bond sale, the authorities believing that it will be possible to award the contract and get construction work underway by the middle or latter part of November, at the latest.

In addition to the \$72,000 bond issue ordered by the people in a special election on August 9 for advancing a general improvement program, the town plans to offer for sale approximately \$85,000 in refunding bonds. The treasury officials explain that it is very likely that the \$85,000 refunding bonds can be sold at a lower rate of interest now than they were several years ago, that the combined sale will possibly be handled at a figure not to exceed four per cent. The refunding issue, however, is entirely separate from the \$72,000 proposed bonds for the general improvement program.

Notified this week that the application for a \$52,200 grant had been approved, town authorities explain that it will be possible to finance a large improvement program than had first been anticipated. Before the \$52,200 cash grant was approved, the local town authorities proposed to spend \$34,000 for street and sidewalk paving, \$15,000 for water and sewer line extensions, \$15,000 for an additional deep well and \$8,000 for a recreational center. The first program called for paved sidewalks on Warren Street, Marshall Avenue and Grace Streets; paving on the same streets and on Smithwick Street to the high school building. Sewer lines will be laid on Smithwick Street, down Franklin to Houghton and out North Houghton to connect with an outlet from that section known as "doodle Hill," turning east there and running several hundred yards to a septic tank, a third disposal plant in the system.

Plans for locating a deep well for direct pumping into the water mains are well advanced, but it is not yet certain that the well will be placed on town property, near the municipal water plant, or on North Biggs Street, just off Main.

Definite plans for a more extensive improvement program will be formulated possibly at the meeting, but it is understood the authorities are considering the following improvements in addition to those included in the initial program:

The opening of Smithwick Street to Marshall Avenue;

A hose truck or a combined hose truck and pumper for the fire department;

Replacement of a defective water line on West Main Street.

An auxiliary pumping unit for the water department.

Jailed For Trespassing At Home Here Last Week

Willie Evans, young Edenton Negro, was jailed here last week when he was caught prowling around a residence on Watts Street at night. Evans, 17 years old, claims he was waiting for a party. Unable to raise a small bond, he continues in the county jail awaiting trial.