

'Floating' Theatre Sinks In Roanoke Below Jamesville

Salvage Operations to Get Underway Today, Owner Says

A sizeable hole torn through its bow, the Original Floating Theatre went to the bottom of the Roanoke River, about five miles below Jamesville early Sunday morning. No one was injured, the crew and cast of 32 persons scrambling to safety on top of the large boat as two tugs pushed it to a mud flat on the south side of the river. The boat, scheduled to dock here all this week, went down in about thirteen feet of water, leaving the after deck and roof of the theatre a few feet above the water line.

"We were traveling up the river very smoothly when the boat struck a submerged log in midstream and started listing immediately," a member of the crew said. "Sensing the danger, the tug boat captains immediately dropped back to the side of the showboat and pushed her on the mud flat in about five minutes," he continued, explaining that members of the cast hardly had time to escape with their lives. Nothing was saved from the muddy waters, the show cast and boat crews holding to places on the roof, missing breakfast while food and canned goods floated from the submerged kitchen. Several deserted the boat, but most of the players remained aboard until yesterday when they gathered together what personal effects they could and made plans to leave for their homes scattered over nearly a dozen states.

Yesterday morning, the players and crew leisurely passed the hours waiting developments, unofficial reports stating that the owner, Mrs. Nina Howard, of St. Michaels, Md., would possibly make no attempt to reopen the show this season. Soon after the boat went down, Mrs. Howard started making plans to salvage the theatre. A diver was employed in Norfolk yesterday and salvage operations were scheduled to get underway today. Unofficial estimates indicated that more than \$5,000 would be required to raise the boat and repair the damage to the equipment. Efforts will be made to float the boat within a week, but a month or more will be required for repairing the damage to equipment and stage scenery, it was learned.

Until the salvage operations are completed, there will be no show boat in existence, members of the crew explaining that the sunken property was the original and last boat of its kind in existence.

The players started leaving late yesterday for their homes, some going as far away as Iowa, others to Tennessee, Virginia, New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Florida, Indiana and still others to points in this State.

Starting its seventh season early last spring, "the boat has been sunk three times, but the accident this week was the first major one during recent years. About 24 hours after the floating theatre struck the log and went to the bottom of the river, a Foreman and Blades Lumber Company barge struck the same object but without damage to the boat.

Few Hear Former Georgia Governor

Eugene Talmadge, former Georgia governor of red-gallus fame and bold critic of the New Deal administration, spoke to a very small group of farmers in the Raleigh auditorium last Saturday in a drive against crop control. There were around 500 farmers present to hear Talmadge attack control in particular the government's policy in general and offer plans for its defeat.

Brought to this State by the Anti-Compulsory Crop Control Association, Talmadge did not offer a specific attack upon control, but suggested attempts to defeat the program. "Plant all you can. Overload control and break it down," he advised.

Following Talmadge's speech, the farmers adopted a resolution opposing "any further" compulsory crop control but expressing their approval of "agricultural aid by our federal government," which was termed a "sound and just economic principle."

This aid, the resolution said, "ought to consist of payments for soil conservation, bounties to compensate farmers against the protective tariff; loans for the relief of debtors upon their homesteads, and seed and crop loans."

Republicans Gain Strength Early Election Reports Show

Martin County voters are slow in going to the polls today to participate in a quiet off-year election, but heavy votes are piling up in most parts of the county. At 1 o'clock, the local precinct reported 145 voters, election officials predicting the count will not pass 450 by the time the polls close at 5:05 o'clock. Robersonville reported 70 voted at 11 o'clock and Bear Grass had only 14 an hour earlier. Light voting is general throughout the county and in much of the east.

Very few tickets are being scratched. A fifty-fifty break was given the proposed amendment to increase the length of sheriff's terms.

Early indications today pointed to substantial gains in Republican ranks in certain sections of the nation. With gains evident in the New England, Middle Atlantic, West Central and East Central States, the Republicans are expected to gain an

additional 50 seats in the National House of Representatives today. Democratic strength in the South is apparently holding its own and increasing in some cases, but the increased strength will not effect the membership. Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and New Jersey reported heavy voting early today with an apparent increase in Republican strength.

A close race in the New York gubernatorial contest was predicted as heavy voting got underway. Much attention is being given the voting as a test of New Deal popularity, early indications pointing to losses for the administration and a strong upturn in the strength of conservatives.

The \$30 a week ham and egg pension boys are appealing to the hungry, but the trouble encountered by Colorado and Alberta with the fancy plan is being considered.

Official Attention For Cemetery Now Likely

MEETING

An important meeting of county and community committeemen will be held in the agricultural building here tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Field Officer Morgan of the State Extension Division, will outline the duties and responsibilities of the group, discuss principal features of the 1939 soil conservation program and offer instructions for handling and determining tobacco allotments for the coming year.

All community committeemen who were just recently elected have been advised to attend the meeting.

Justice Kept Busy Marrying Couples And Keeping Peace

Marries Four Saturday; Has Seven Defendants Face Him Monday

The tying of wedding knots and keeping the peace are keeping Justice John L. Hassell busy here these days. Through last Saturday, the "marrying" justice had average tying one wedding knot each day for nearly a week. Yesterday, the justice was in session hearing cases growing out of minor infractions of the law of the land. Numbers crowded into the trial justice's office for the proceedings which were underway a greater part of yesterday morning.

"Drunk and down" was the unusual charge brought against Bib Stalls. The court sentenced him to the roads for 30 days, but suspended sentence upon payment of the cost and the assured good behavior of the defendant for twelve months.

Charged with trapping without license, C. D. Roberson and Clyde Holland were given 30-day suspended sentences. They were directed to procure proper trapping licenses and pay the case costs.

Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost in the case charging William H. Anderson with public drunkenness.

Charged with operating an automobile without a driver's license, William Hoggard was fined \$10 and taxed with the case cost.

Probable cause of guilty appearing in the case charging him with the larceny of an automobile, Claude Parker, colored of Goose Nest, was bound over to the superior court for trial. He was released in \$200 bond.

Charged with operating an automobile at night with improper lights Roosevelt Powell was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs.

Car Covered With Peanuts When Truck Turns Over

No one was hurt and little damage resulted when a truck load of peanuts turned over and literally "snowed under" the car of A. B. Ayers, Jr., at the corner of Main and Haughton Streets here yesterday afternoon. Ayers was driving into Main as the truck turned into Haughton. Rotten timbers in the truck gave away, and the peanuts were spilled on the front of the car.

Church Willing To Turn Property Over Town Authorities

Board Discusses Number of Matters At Meet Last Evening

Williamston's Cemetery, ill kept and seldom thought of during these many years, is about to receive official attention from the town fathers. Plans for transferring the property to the town will be formulated within the near future, it is understood. Advised that the Baptist church would surrender the property, the town authorities expressed a willingness to take charge and map out a general improvement program there.

Virtually all the lots in the cemetery have been sold, the board unofficially agreeing to turn over to the church any revenue derived from the sale of the remaining plots. An expansion program was mentioned, but until the transfer is completed, no plans for development will be advanced, it was learned.

The preliminary action pointing to the transfer of the property by the church to the town comes after civic clubs and individuals had talked at length and effected committee appointments to make surveys for advancing a general improvement program needed so badly for so long a time.

In an hour's session last evening, the commissioners heard a number of problems including proposals for paving a short sidewalk on Williams Street, extending Church Street, painting the town hall dome, extending the fire district, the condemning of an old vacant house on Warren and Haughton Streets, renumbering all houses in town and placing markers on the several streets, the limited shooting of fireworks, improvement bonds and Christmas decorating on the streets.

No action was taken on the proposal by Citizen J. T. Price to extend Church Street three blocks west to Lanier Street, and open a new street from Church to Main near the Roberson home.

The town offered Painter Beaman \$50 to paint the town hall dome. Beaman was painting the dome about twelve years ago when a board fell and fatally injured a young girl on the sidewalk below. The accident is said to have cost the town several thousand dollars.

Advised of the haphazard methods followed in numbering the streets years ago, the commissioners ordered that a complete renumbering program be launched. Plans were also discussed for placing permanent markers on the streets. Postmaster Fowden advised that it will be possible to inaugurate a parcel post delivery service if the houses are properly numbered and the streets identified.

Appearing before the meeting, Fire Chief G. P. Hall pointed out the need for extending the fire district. A survey will be made by town officials, the fire chief and Fire Marshall Brockwell possibly some time this week, and their plans will be offered to the board for consideration at the next meeting. The survey will likely extend the fire district to Pearl Street on Washington Street, to Haughton on West

Eli Evans Fatally Stabbed Here Late On Saturday Night

Murder Was Second Reported in Williamston In Eight Days

Eli Evans, young colored man, was fatally stabbed by Thomas Williams, also colored, at a colored beer parlor on Washington Street here late last Saturday night. It was the second murder reported in Williamston in less than eight days and the third involving a Martin County man over a period of fifteen days. James Henry Howard, colored, was fatally shot while visiting in the home of LeRoy Purvis, here Saturday before. Monroe Everett, Martin County white man, was found shot to death near Tarboro on October 23.

Williams, a farmer living in Williamston Township, near Beaver Dam Swamp, was visiting the Gain-or beer parlor with his girl, Marguerite Bonner, and her 10-year-old daughter. Evans was said to have entered the joint and asked the age of the girl. "Why do you want to know how old the girl is?" Williams is said to have asked Evans. A few other words were exchanged, and Williams was said to have struck Evans, witnesses little realizing that the man had whipped out a long-bladed knife from his pocket and driven it into Evans' heart. Williams grabbed the woman's hand and fled from the beer parlor and went to the Bonner home, near Beaver Dam Swamp.

Evans, his head drooping, walked from the joint and fell dead after he walked a few yards down the street. His heart was partly halved, it was said.

Investigating the case, officers learned that the two men had had trouble before.

Arrested at the Bonner home by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Officer John Gurganus within thirty minutes after the murder, Williams first denied the charge, but later admitted the stabbing. "How is he?" Williams asked the officer. Told of Evans' death, Williams then alleged that Evans was about to attack him with a knife, that he struck in self defense.

No preliminary hearing has been held in the case, but officers have booked Williams on first degree murder charge and he will likely carry him before Justice J. L. Hassell tonight or tomorrow.

Red Cross Drive Solicitors Named

Solicitors for handling the annual Red Cross membership campaign in the Martin County Chapter were named by Chairman Harry A. Biggs this week. While the drive is not slated to get underway until Friday several have already enrolled, Mr. Biggs said.

The solicitors are: Williamston: Mrs. J. E. King, Mrs. Robert Everett, Mrs. Hugh Horton, Mrs. Titus Critcher, Mrs. Roger Critcher, Misses Ruth Manning and Katherine Hardison, Mrs. John Henry Edwards, Mrs. E. P. Cunningham, Mrs. P. H. Brown, Mrs. J. W. Watts, Miss Mary Rogerson, Mrs. W. R. Bondurant, Mrs. B. B. Rogerson; Griffins Township: Miss Sarah Roberson; Bear Grass: Miss Josephine Gurganus; Everetts: Miss Mary Virginia Daniel; Jamesville: Miss Grace Martin; Williams Township: Mrs. Kader Lilley; Poplar Point: Mrs. Dennis Hardy.

Memberships have been issued to the following: Miss Annie Glasgow, N. K. Harrison, W. I. Skinner, G. V. Boyd, F. W. Sparrow, Mrs. F. H. Stevenson, McClees Bros., Holt Evans, Herman Bowen, J. A. Manning, V. J. Spivey.

NO OBSERVANCE

Armistice Day will go virtually unobserved here and in this section on Friday of this week, American Legion officials announcing that no celebration has been planned in the district. The day, ordinarily coming while "the tobacco market was open and when business firms could ill afford to close, will be observed by local banks and a few other business houses.

The American Legion Post is planning a square and round dance in the Hut on Watts Street that evening, beginning at 9 o'clock.

County Commissioners Plan To Go Before Highway Commission With Secondary Road Problems

4-H Clubs Hold Achievement Day Program Saturday

Certificates Are Awarded To Large Number at Annual Event

The fourth annual Martin County 4-H Club achievement day was held in the Robersonville high school last Saturday with 125 club members and parents present.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a. m. by Joe Winslow, president of the county council. L. W. Anderson, principal of Robersonville high school welcomed the members and their parents to Robersonville school. A response was given by Gerald James, president of the Robersonville club. B. Troy Ferguson, district agent, and John W. Artz, agent at large, gave a very interesting talk on 4-H club work. They stressed the significance of the 4-H clubs bringing out the necessity of a balanced program. "The loss of one single H would throw the whole program out of balance," said Mr. Artz.

A very good demonstration on table manners was given by Miss Lora E. Sleeper and three boys and girls. The demonstration represented two families; one the Manners family, who did everything as they should, and the other the "Goup" family, who did everything wrong.

Certificates for the year's work, prizes for exhibits and club awards were given out. Farm Life won recognition as the outstanding club in 1938. Bear Grass club, for the second time in succession, won the 4-H club gavel for having the highest percentage representation at the meeting. The gavel became the property of the club.

Prizes for exhibits went to the following: Record books, girls, Mary Emily Manning and Lola Smithwick; Boys, Joseph Carlyle Manning and Joe King Powell; canning, Olivia Rogerson, Nora and Frances Moore; dresses, Pearl Williams, Lola Smithwick; corn, white, Lacy Ward; yellow, Abner Simpson, Jesse Curtis. First year certificates were issued to the following girls: Audrey Hardison, Gladys Mizell, Dorothy Dare Roberson, Lois Everett, Vera Pearl Williams, Idalia Lee Oglesby, Mary Lee Gurganus, Catherine Weathersby, Annie Louise Davis, Johnnie Harris, Nona Moore, Ethel Mae Smith, Esther House, Mercedes Ange, Susie Revels, Frances Brown, Annie Waters Chesson, Grace Brewster.

Two Hurt In Car Wrecks In County

Two people were hurt, neither very badly, and considerable damage was done to property in this county last week-end when cars crashed on Highway 64, near the Martin-Pitt boundary line, and on the McGaskey Road, near Williamston.

Roosevelt Powell, colored, of Bethel, was painfully cut on the forehead and his wife was slightly hurt Saturday night about nine o'clock when he drove an old model car onto the highway near Parmele, and into the path of a car driven by Jesse Taylor, white man of Stokes.

The Powell car was without lights, and was not seen by Taylor in time to avoid the crash. Powell was thrown out and fell under the car as the Taylor machine bounced it along the highway. Much difficulty was experienced in clearing the road.

In Mayor John L. Hassell's justice court Monday morning, Powell was fined \$10 and taxed with the cost for operating a car at night with improper lights. It was unofficially reported that Taylor was investigating the possibility of a civil action in an effort to recover damages resulting to his car, a 1936 Ford.

Meeting on a narrow and sandy road, two cars, one driven by A. S. Roberson and the other by Willie Hoggard, crashed on the McGaskey Road near Williamston early Sunday evening. The machines were damaged, but no one was hurt. Hoggard, driving a car belonging to J. S. Whitman, was carried into the courts and fined \$10 and taxed with the cost for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

TAX SALES

Approximately 600 pieces of real estate were placed on the auction block at a sheriff's tax sale in front of the county courthouse Monday, but the event attracted few bidders and the county completed the auction with its shoulders burdened with tax sale certificates. Six private bids were received for property in Jamesville, Williams, Griffins, Cross Roads and Bear Grass Townships.

Bearing interest at eight per cent the first year and six per cent the second, the tax certificates are subject to foreclosure proceedings at and after the expiration of twenty-four months.

Valentine Addresses Loyal Democrats In Rally Here Friday

"Does Not Feel Absentee Ballot Is Right," Speaker Says

Making the only scheduled political address in the county this season in behalf of the entire democratic ticket, Attorney Itimous T. Valentine, of Nashville, dubbed the Republican clan as the "Yo-Yo Party," and paid his respect to the absentee ballot that is apparently so deeply rooted in the Democratic sleight-of-hand book.

Mr. Valentine, defeated in the June primary for the second judicial judgeship, expressed to the fair-size group of loyal Democrats gathered in the county courthouse his grateful appreciation for the support and friendship accorded him by the people of Martin County. His manner and his earnest appeal for support of successful candidates in the November 8 election, clearly indicated that while his name does not appear on the ticket, he is not yet defeated. "I am glad to be in Martin County to boost those principles that give opportunities to every man," he said in explaining that it was not necessary to bury any hatchet for he had never carried a hatchet in the primary. "The task now is to take the lighted torch and help advance the philosophy of democracy, a democracy that offers opportunity and security."

Touching the highly explosive subject of absentee voting, Mr. Valentine offered no apology for the record, but said, "I do not believe the absentee ballot is right, and I have no appetite for it," he said, adding that "we must reform that within the Democratic party."

Briefly, the speaker outlined the record of the Democratic party, saying that the present administration alone had done more for the average man than all the Republican administrations put together had done. "The Republican party was afraid to do anything for fear it would not meet the approval of those who paid tribute to the party treasury. We do not have to defend the record of the Democratic party in State or Nation. I have found nothing wrong in the present administration. All the policies may not meet with one's approval, but I am proud of the fact that the party has and continues to advance constructive things, and as long as the President tries to do something, I am with him," the speaker declared.

"If President Roosevelt had done

Local Boy Members Of Wake Forest Band

Wake Forest, Nov. 8.—Edgar Gurganus, of Williamston, has been selected as a member of the Wake Forest College band, according to a report released today by Professor Lyman Seymour, head of the music department. He is one of the 42 select musicians chosen to represent the college in band performances this year.

Activities in the band include performances at all of the home football games as well as several tours which will be made in the spring. A new form of musical entertainment is being planned for the band at present, in which the musicians will appear in a number of local and out-of-town attractions, giving concerts of light opera.

Delegations Point Out Bad Condition Of Roads in County

Petition Asks Completion Of Highway 11 Into Oak City

Meeting in regular session here yesterday, the Martin County Board of Commissioners received firsthand information about the bad condition of roads in every section of the county, the authorities stirred to action, assuring the several delegations that they would make immediate plans to go before the highway officials and present the findings in the hope that something might be done to remedy the problem now facing those who have to travel the secondary routes.

The delegations coming from Jamesville, Hassell, Hamilton and Cross Roads and numbering twenty or more leading citizens, told some startling facts, facts that possibly the district engineers learned in a first-hand survey made about three weeks ago. "We are traveling on potato ridges in the outlying sections of the county," the commissioners were told. Buses and small trees are almost meeting in some places and cars are scratched by extending limbs and branches, members of the board were told. It is impossible for two cars to pass on many of the roads in numerous places.

Then the delegations indirectly alleged that the secondary roads in this county are not receiving the attention they get in other counties. "Drive in from most any of the neighboring counties and you can tell when you reach Martin by the narrow and ill-kept roads," a delegation from the upper part of the county was quoted as saying.

"We want to learn the reason for the condition of the roads in this county," the delegations said, adding that they wanted the commissioners to see if those conditions could be remedied.

The meeting of the authorities turned out to be more of a road convention than one for the handling of strictly county affairs. The delegations, however, were heard with interest, and plans are now underway to approach the highway commission with the problem. Supported by long lists of signatures, petitions were placed before the authorities urging them to recommend state maintenance of a road in Jamesville Township, running from Leo Gardner's to Luther Hardison's farm, and one in Cross Roads Township from Henry D. Peel's to Leggett's Mill via R. L. Whitehurst.

A petition, carrying the names of J. C. Ross, J. H. Ayers and J. F. Crisp, urged the board to recommend the extension and paving of Highway No. 11 from a point near Hassell into Oak City, a distance of about 4 miles. The petition explained that the project, running virtually a straight course to connect with Highway 125 at Oak City, had already been approved by federal engineers and that no other route would get their approval. It was also pointed out in the petition that the federal government would pay one-half the cost. The Bethel-Oak City project was halted some time ago when citizens in the Hassell community asked that the present route be paved. The new route does not include the town of Hassell.

J. A. Suggs was relieved of taxes on \$500 worth of property improperly listed in Williamston Township.

H. M. Peel entered his application for an appointment as Hamilton Township constable, the board delaying action in the matter.

Firemen Called To Rural Home Monday

Starting from a defective flue, fire slightly damaged a tenant home on the D. M. Roberson farm, two miles west of here on Highway 64 at 12:30 yesterday afternoon. Local firemen were called there, but the fire was under control upon their arrival.

Pittman And Clayton Purchase Pressing Club

Messrs. C. D. Pittman and D. V. Clayton have purchased the cleaning and pressing business of Coy Lamm. Mr. Pittman will be the active manager of the business within two or three weeks.