

## Fire And Hot Sun Claim Ten Percent County Leaf Crop

### Value of Tobacco Burned in Fields Estimated at \$200,000.00

Fire and the hot sun continue to claim a big portion of the tobacco crop in this county, late reports indicating that Martin farmers have lost \$200,000 worth of the leaf in their fields while fire was another exacting toll of approximately \$15,000 in the curing barns and pack-houses.

With six losses reported over the week-end, the number of curing barns burned in the county now stands in the neighborhood of thirty. John Hadley, farmer living near Williamston, lost his second barn of the season Sunday. Using an oil burner, he left the barn and was in his home when the barn caught fire and burned. Farmer State Ayers, of Cross Roads, and Farmer George Taylor, each lost a barn during the week-end. A barn belonging to Mrs. Arthur Wynn was burned Monday morning in Cross Roads Township. A barn on the Carson farm in Robersonville Township was destroyed by fire Sunday afternoon. Zeno Beddard, Hamilton Township farmer, reported a barn burned on his farm Monday morning.

Eleven barns have been burned within a radius of five miles of Oak City this season to represent the center of the losses. The fires have been fairly numerous in the Robersonville and Cross Roads sections.

Unofficial records indicate that the losses this year have been more numerous than ever before.

While the curing barn loss has established a new record, the loss there has been small compared to the damage experienced by the growers in the fields. At least ten per cent of the crop has burned in the fields, the reports indicate. Upon that basis, it is estimated that the loss there will run close to \$200,000. Most growers saved their sandlugs, but as the curing season progressed, the crop began to ripen so rapidly they got behind in the work and in many instances three and four leaves were skipped on each stalk. In a few extreme cases, farmers were able to save only every other curing, leaving groups of leaves at intervals on the stalks.

Nearing the completion of the harvesting work this week, Martin County farmers now maintain that the crop is not curing out as heavy as they once believed it. Some state that the crop will weigh ten per cent less than the first estimate indicated it would.

## Changes Affected In School Faculties

The Martin County school teaching personnel, recognized as fairly stable just a short time ago, is undergoing quite a few changes, according to late reports coming from the office of the superintendent of schools.

Professor Foster Ferguson, able head of the commercial department in the Williamston schools during the past two years, resigned last week-end to accept a year-around job in Charlotte. The position made vacant by his resignation has not been filled, but several applications are being considered, it was learned.

Miss Grace Talton, of Clayton, was appointed yesterday to succeed Miss Rebecca Harrison as teacher of the local first grade. Miss Talton, a graduate of Meredith College, has had several years' experience, having taught at Warsaw and Fairmont. Miss Harrison resigned week before last to accept a position in the High Point schools.

Principal C. B. Martin resigned last week-end after several years of successful work in the Farm Life school. He goes to Pantego to head the schools there. His brother, popular Professor Russell Martin, leaves the history and science department in the Jamesville school, to head the school at Farm Life. No appointment has been made to the position made vacant in the Jamesville school.

Several other shifts in the faculty personnel are anticipated, but they have not been officially announced by the office of the county board of education.

## Mrs. A. F. Lilley Is The Champion Pepper Grower

It's a hot time out in the A. F. Lilley garden, near here, according to reports coming from the little spot in the fair grounds where Mrs. Lilley has been acknowledged as the champion pepper grower for the second season in succession.

Looking into one of the several patches that are spotted around her little home yesterday, Mrs. Lilley harvested six large bell peppers from a single stalk. From another stalk she harvested seven large pods of the hot stuff. On another hill she pulled nineteen long green peppers. "And they are just medium sample," the champion gardener's husband said.

## Town Budget Estimate Awaits Raleigh Commission Sanction

Intimating that every effort will be made to defeat any increase in the town tax rate, town officials in regular session last night postponed a discussion of the new budget figures until the local government commission in Raleigh has an opportunity to look the financial situation over and offer any suggestions deemed necessary. "We want to and will, if allowed, to hold the rate at the same figure, \$2.60 the \$100 assessed property valuation," Treasurer N. C. Green said a few days ago. It is apparent that the \$10,000 swimming pool burden is bearing heavily on the town's financial pillar, and according to a statement offered by the treasurer, the town has around \$2,200 in cash and bills amounting to \$3,700, including \$1,600 due on the swimming pool filtering plant.

However, the town financiers have been able to meet all bond interest

and principal payments and virtually hold the treasurer's head above the water when it came to meeting local obligations. No time was set for holding a meeting to discuss the new budget figures, and it is possible that no action will be taken before the next regular meeting in September.

Advised the budget estimate was not yet ready for consideration, the board discussed a few minor questions and ordered proceedings started to open a 10-foot alley between the Simpson and George Reynolds Hotel property. The board was advised that other owners would grant easements. The commissioners decided not to sell a small piece of land on Sycamore Street, adjoining the municipal water plant, for \$750, the sentiment of the board being that the land might be needed in later years for a municipal light plant or for some other public enterprise.

### VICE PRESIDENT



**Tom B. Brandon, Martin County's farm agent, was highly honored in Raleigh last week when the State Association of County Agents made him vice president of their organization. The election is a stepping stone to the presidency which carries with it a free trip to the national livestock show in Chicago next year.**

## Mrs. Silverthorne Dies At Her Home In Poplar Point

### Last Rites Are Being Held There This Afternoon At 2:30 o'Clock

Mrs. Avaline Roebuck Silverthorne, one of the oldest residents in the county, died at her home in Poplar Point Township yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock following an illness of nearly eight years' duration. Up until two years ago she was able to rest in a rolling chair, but since that time she was confined to her bed. The end came peacefully and gradually.

The daughter of the late George and Martha Purvis Roebuck, Mrs. Silverthorne was born in Edgecombe County in November, 1854. She spent her early childhood there, and after experiencing the privations and hardships of the war period, she moved with her parents to this county, locating in Poplar Point Township. In early womanhood she was married to William Robert Silverthorne, of Washington County, and who drove the mail from Plymouth to Hamilton for a number of years. Following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Silverthorne started a home of their own on a farm not far from Spring Green. He died about twelve years ago.

Four children, George R. Silverthorne and Fred Silverthorne, both of Poplar Point Township; Mrs. Sam Ingalls, of Beaufort County, and Clyde Silverthorne, of Williamston, survive. She was the last member of a family that was well connected in Edgecombe County prior to the Civil War.

Mrs. Silverthorne was not a member of any church, but she was an upright woman and was held in high esteem by all who knew her.

Funeral services are being conducted at the late home this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Elder William E. Grimes. Interment will follow in the family plot on the home farm.

### NEW DOCTOR

Dr. E. T. Walker, of Kansas, has formed a partnership with Dr. Victor E. Brown and will locate here tomorrow for the practice of medicine, it was learned here today. During the past several years, Dr. Walker has been associated with Duke and Watts Hospitals, Durham, and with one in Charleston, S. C., and comes here highly recommended as an able doctor and citizen. The doctor and his wife have not yet located a home.

## Dr. J. H. Saunders Last Rites Largely Attended Friday

### Hundreds Overflow Church To Pay Tribute To Popular Physician

The last rites for Dr. Joseph H. Saunders were held in the Church of the Advent here last Friday afternoon at 4:15 o'clock when hundreds overflowed the church to pay tribute to the memory of a man who played the dual role of a leading citizen and a popular and able physician in this county for more than a third of a century. When the church was filled to capacity, several hundred stood silently on the outside and heard the services from there. Music was rendered by a special choir, and pallbearers were young men whose medical care the kind physician had tenderly cared for from their birth. Their names are: Messrs. Rossell Rogers, Claude Baxter Clark, Jr., Paul Simpson, Pete Fowden, Jr., Reginald Simpson and H. H. Cowen, Jr.

Rev. John W. Hardy, rector of the Church of the Advent, and Rev. Morrison Bethea, of Reidsville, and Rev. E. F. Moseley, of Kinston, former rectors, conducted the last rites. At the conclusion of the service at the grave in the family plot in the local cemetery, taps were sounded by Scoutmaster Horace Ray for the local American Legion post in which Dr. Saunders held membership during most of the time following his return from France in 1919.

The floral offering was one of the largest ever seen in this section, and the last rites attracted hundreds from all parts of the county and from centers in many other eastern Carolina counties.

Among those attending from out of the county were:

Mrs. Sam Hanff, Miss Mary Weldon Smith, Mrs. Jim Hall, Mr. Isaac Smith, Mr. Charles Smith, Mr. Stuart Smith, of Scotland Neck; Dr. W. F. Evans, New York, N. Y.; Dr. Spencer Bass, Tarboro; Rev. Morrison Bethea and daughter, Mrs. John Dangerfield, Reidsville; Rev. Sidney Matthews, Plymouth; John Bonner, Washington; Dr. C. J. Sawyer and C. C. Castello, Windsor; Dr. Edgar Long, Hamilton; Dr. Joshua Taylor, Washington; Mrs. Dave Carter, Washington; Mrs. Demise Grimes, Mr. and Mrs. June Grimes, and Mrs. Justus Randolph, of Washington; Rev. and Mrs. E. F. Moseley, Kinston; Mr. and Mrs. John Hire Saunders and Miss Teeney Faulkner, Kinston; Miss Naomi Bryant, Tarboro;

Mr. Edward B. Darden, Norfolk, Va.; Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Smith, Windsor; Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Barnes, Miss Helen Barnes, D. C. Barnes, Jr., Miss Annie Barnes, Miss Sarah Barnes, Miss Vaughn, Mr. and Mrs. McLawhorn, all of Murfreesboro; Mrs. Henry D. Cook and Mrs. W. D. Washburn, of Hopewell, Va.; Dr. Claybourne T. Smith, Rocky Mount; Drs. T. L. Bray, E. W. Furgurson, Alban Pappineau and Claudius McGowan, all of Plymouth; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Flynne, Mrs. Mary Bellamy, Miss Ida Grimes, Miss Annie Nicholson, Mrs. and Mrs. Clay Carter, Dr. Graham Ramsey, Mr. Frank Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bowers, Dr. Harry Hackler, Mrs. Dan Taylor and Junie Grimes, Jr., all of Washington; Dr. and Mrs. R. J. Nelson, of Robersonville; Dr. and Mrs. Vernon Ward and Dr. and Mrs. Jesse Ward, of Robersonville; Drs. Pace and Watson, of Greenville; Drs. J. G. Raby and Edward Roberson, and Miss Velma Keel, of Tarboro.

## Tobacco Grows Tall Down In The Jamesville Section

They go in for high tobacco down around Jamesville, reports from the section stating that Paul Holliday has a stalk more than nine feet tall on the farm of his father, Mr. L. P. Holliday. There are about 25 leaves on the stalk, and even after several "pullings" there are quite a few leaves left on the stalk.

Grown from "Gold Dollar" seed, the field of tobacco will measure about five feet high, as a whole.

## Local Man Is Held In Counterfeiting Case At Lumberton

### Willford Sparrow Reported To Have Admitted Passing Bogus Bills

Willford Sparrow local man, is being held in the Cumberland County jail, Fayetteville, by Federal Bureau of Investigation authorities pending a preliminary hearing there tomorrow afternoon in a case charging him with passing counterfeit five dollar bills. Sparrow, strongly denying any knowledge of the bogus bill allegedly passed by him in a small cafe near Fairmont Thursday night, was said to have admitted passing the worthless bill to a F. B. I. agent Sunday, and was also reported as saying that he passed a similar bill at the Williamston baseball park a few days earlier.

Taking the case Friday, the F. B. I. agents arrested Sparrow's brother, Ed Sparrow, in Lumberton on Saturday and charged him with manufacturing the counterfeit money. The Lumberton man, an engraver and photographer, was said to have admitted making the money and told federal agents that he had issued ten of the bills to his brother. The manufacturer was also said to have turned up the manufacturing equipment following his brother's arrest and dumped it into the river at Lumberton.

When Sparrow was arrested, he was riding with R. D. Taylor, also of Williamston, and Boyd B. Hight, former resident of Williamston but who now lives in Lumberton. They were temporarily detained and questioned by officers but were later released when Sparrow was said to have admitted his guilt and declared the other two men knew nothing about the bogus money in his possession.

When the three were stopped as they drove into Lumberton, Taylor immediately got out of the car on one side and Hight got out on the other, but Sparrow was said to have held his seat for a brief period, and allegedly slipped a billfold with five of the bills in it from his pocket and pushed it down back of the seat cushion. Thinking Sparrow was trying to pull a pistol from his pocket, the arresting officers threw a gun on him and were making ready to fire when he raised his hands and got out of the car. Bond in the sum of \$2,000 was offered him.

Arresting officers and the United States Commissioner who had the case called to his attention at Fayetteville, told officers from this county that they felt sure the guilt centered around Sparrow, but that a formal hearing could not be held before tomorrow afternoon. Taylor, who returned home Sunday, and Hight, are expected to return for the hearing.

No formal charges were brought against Sparrow's companions, reports stating that they were merely detained while the case was being investigated.

Commenting on the trip, Mr. Taylor stated that he wanted to observe the opening of the border tobacco markets, and that Sparrow told him he would like to go along. Meeting his old friend, Boyd Hight, in Lumberton, Taylor stated that they went out for supper, that he had no idea Sparrow had counterfeit money on his person.

## Education Board In Meet Monday

Meeting in regular session here yesterday, members of the Martin County Board of Education studied the mad scramble now underway in preparation for the opening of the county schools on September 7. The search for teachers to fill positions made vacant by recent resignations was left to the local committees but the county group soon found they had trouble enough of their own to handle the construction program now underway.

Reviewing the construction program, the board was advised that the two gymnasiums at Oak City and Jamesville have finally been completed and will be made ready for use this fall. Construction work is well advanced on a three-room addition to the Williamston colored school and on a four-room school for the Woolard School, colored, in Bear Grass Township. Work is slated to get underway on a new two-room agricultural building in Robersonville tomorrow morning.

Inspecting school properties, the school authorities estimated that a damage possibly running as much as \$1,600 had been done to the plants since they were closed last spring. Window lights have been smashed in big numbers, and damaging attacks have been made to other types of property during the period by mischievous devils.

Messrs. J. W. Eubanks, George C. Griffin, E. H. Ange, H. C. Norman and J. D. Woolard were present for the meeting.

**Big Race**  
Reports from tobacco fields indicate that farmers and worms are in a race to see who can get the most tobacco remaining unharvested. The worms are about to take the lead, some farmers admit.

## Authorities Likely To Withhold Fair Permit

### 1939 Tax Rate Is Formally Fixed At \$1.45 For County

### Commissioners in One of Their Shortest Sessions In Recent Months

Formally fixing the current fiscal year tax rate at \$1.45 the \$100 assessed property valuation and drawing a jury for the September term of Martin Superior Court, the county commissioners completed their work and, adjourned before 1 o'clock in the afternoon to set a record session for brevity.

No objections were directed against the tax rate which carries a four-cent boost over the 1938 figure, and the new levy was ordered placed in effect. Immediately following the order, employees in the office of the county accountant started preparing the tax books. Payment of new taxes will be in order some time in September, possibly. There is very little difference in the amounts of the levies for 1938 and 1939; it is one of those cases where just a little more money will come out of the land tax pocket and not quite as much from the general pocket.

While a greater part of the session was devoted to an inspection of reports submitted by various county departments including those of the farm and home agents, welfare and law enforcement forces, the commissioners spent much time considering an informal application for a permit for the operation of the Williamston fair this fall. The issuance of a permit will be delayed pending the payment of past due premiums, a member of the board was quoted as saying.

It was pointed out that the fair operations could proceed with their plans without the sanction of the county commissioners, but in that case the fair would be made subject to a comparatively heavy tax. It was also pointed out that there is some doubt if a permit will be issued even in the event premiums declared past due are paid between now and fair time.

N. Y. Chambliss, manager of the North Carolina Fair Operating Company, operators of the Williamston fair, publicly issued a statement a few days ago stating that his company had experienced sizable losses in the county, that he hoped to have favorable weather conditions and meet all past due obligations. Unpaid premiums are estimated at about \$800, it was learned unofficially.

While the commissioners took no definite step toward denying or granting the fair operating company a permit, it was evident that they will be slow in directing the farm and home agents to cooperate with the management in the handling of any agricultural exhibits.

### PRICES FIRM

Prices are holding firm as sales on the border and South Carolina tobacco markets got underway for the second week yesterday. Averages, ranging upward to 20 cents a pound, were reported on some of the markets.

Farmers were said to be very well pleased with their sales, and comparatively few tags were being turned.

With encouraging reports coming from the border, the Williamston market is anticipating a successful opening two weeks from today.

Few farmers in this section are patronizing the border marts.

### HOURS

Visiting hours at the recently opened Brown Community hospital here were announced yesterday by Dr. V. E. Brown, as follows: 9:30-11:30 a. m.; 2:30-4:30 and 7 to 9 p. m. Visitors are heartily welcomed to visit the hospital and the patients therein, the staff pointing out that the observance of the regular visiting hours will be greatly appreciated.

The doors of the hospital are always open to anyone who is ill.

## Child Is Critically Hurt When Hit By Car At Jamesville

### Helen Waters Suffers Broken Legs and Arm Injury

Her body badly broken, cut and bruised, little Helen Waters, four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Waters, of Jamesville, lies in a critical condition in a Washington hospital as a result of an automobile accident near her home last Sunday morning. Although her right leg is broken above the knee, her left leg broken below the knee and an arm fracture in addition to ugly cuts and painful bruises, the little girl is expected to live. Last reports from the hospital stated that she was resting fairly well. Given first-aid treatment in the offices of Drs. Rhodes and McAllister, the child was immediately removed to the hospital.

On her way to Sunday school with an older sister, the child started across the highway at the old hotel intersection when she was run down by a car driven by J. S. Allen, a mechanic for the Bertie County schools. According to reports reaching here, an automobile was driven out of the side street by a colored man, and as he made a right turn he met the Allen car traveling toward Plymouth. The little child, her vision apparently blocked by the car driven by the colored man, walked into the highway and was almost across when she was struck. Reports state that the older child tried to reach for and pull Helen from the path of the car, but failed.

Allen, riding with his family, saw the car move out of the side street and immediately applied brakes on his own car apparently before he ever saw the child in the highway. Reports state that he skidded his tires approximately 75 feet before plowing into the child and knocking her quite a few feet away from the path of the vehicle.

No hearing has been held in the case and it could not be learned if charges would be brought against Allen.

## Guardsmen Invade Town For A Night

Gathering their forces in the vicinities of Greensboro and High Point, approximately 300 National Guardsmen spent Sunday afternoon and night here and all but took over the town before their departure the following morning for Camp Story, Va., where they will observe strict military regulations during the next two weeks.

Traveling in 30 army trucks and forty or more private cars, the guardsmen camped on the grammar grade school grounds during those few hours they were not busy exploring the town. Caught short, the illicit liquor stations were not prepared for a thriving business, but the beer retailers almost sold out before the troops left at 5:30 yesterday morning. A few of the boys tried to settle their differences among themselves with their fists, but the group was out for a jolly good time and no casualties or arrests were on the police blotters the following morning. Two youngsters were found sleeping in an alley shortly after the camp broke, but they are thought to have overtaken their command in a short time.

Shortly before the western contingent moved in, approximately 200 guardsmen moved in from the south, and after having dinner in local hotels and cafes they moved into Edenton to make camp for the night.

Major M. L. Lewis, of Greensboro, was in command of the boys here. They are expected to return from camp within two weeks.

**Quarantine Lifted In Whooping Cough Area**

The whooping cough quarantine that had held a section of Griffin Street in the colored sector of the town in its grip for several weeks was lifted yesterday at the direction of Dr. J. S. Chambliss, acting health officer for the county.

"There has been a marked improvement in the epidemic here," Dr. Chambliss said, adding that there are only ten other cases of the cough in the town that are now under quarantine. The ban in those cases will be lifted August 20. Parents and others are requested to report any new cases to the department and assist in checking a possible outbreak similar to the one reported on Griffin Street.

## Highway Accident Record

Martin County's automobile accident record took on a more serious turn last week when a machine tore into a small child and all but took its life. The onslaught against property, after reaching comparatively high proportions, subsided a bit, but the records show that the automobile is well ahead with the dastardly business of injuring and killing human beings and damaging property.

No cause is advanced for the accident that maimed a four-year-old child in Jamesville last Sunday morning, but suffice it to say it could have been prevented easily. It offers just another glaring reason why little tots should be taught the potential dangers lurking on the streets and highways and why the speed laws should be enforced.

At least a dozen cyclists gambled with their lives on Williamston's main street during the period just ended when they rode the streets unconcerned of the vehicles that darted in front, in back and on the side of them. It is legal to ride a bicycle on Main Street here, BUT it isn't safe. And it is a shame mothers will allow their children to take those chances when, sooner or later, some child pays for the privilege with his life.

An unofficial comparison of accident records in the county for the past week and for previous weeks in the year follows:

	Accidents Injured	Killed	Property Damage
Last week's record	1	1	\$ 000.00
Prior Record	27	24	7,250.00
TOTALS	28	25	\$7,250.00

## Williamston Native Dies At Sanatorium After Long Illness

### Funeral Services This Afternoon For Mrs. Walter Gresham

Mrs. A. Walter Gresham, a native of Williamston, died in a hospital at Sanatorium Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock following a long illness. While visiting relatives here in May of last year, Mrs. Gresham suffered an attack of pneumonia and lingered near death for weeks. Her condition improved, however, and she entered a hospital at Sanatorium for continued treatment and she continued to get better there until just a short time ago. She experienced a relapse and the end came gradually with members of the family at her bedside.

The daughter of Mrs. Fannie Crawford and the late J. C. Crawford, popular sheriff of Martin County for a long number of years, Mrs. Gresham was born in Williamston 34 years ago next November. She received her early education in the local schools and at the North Carolina College for Women, Greensboro. Completed her education, she entered the teaching profession and while a member of the Beulahville school faculty, she married Mr. Gresham about 11 years ago. He with two children, William and Anne Crawford Gresham, survives. She also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Harold Clark of Jacksonville, Fla., and Miss Estelle Crawford, of Williamston, and two brothers, Messrs. Roland C. Crawford, of Beckley, W. Va., and W. Thomas Crawford, of Williamston, and her mother, Mrs. Fannie Crawford, also of Williamston.

Since her mother's illness little Miss Anne has made her home with her grandmother here where she has many little friends.

Mrs. Gresham is remembered here as a young woman possessing a pleasing personality and a marked friendliness. She was held in high regard by both young and old. She was thoughtful of others, and was a devoted wife and mother.

When a young girl she joined the local Methodist church, later moving her membership to the Beulahville Presbyterian church. Her pastor, Rev. Lacy Rose, will conduct the last rites at the home there this afternoon at 3 o'clock, and interment will follow in the Beulahville cemetery.

Among those attending the funeral services from here are Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Coburn, Mrs. V. J. Spivey, Mrs. W. H. Coburn and Mr. S. H. Grimes.

## Young Boy Bitten By Snake While In Swimming Hole

With one of his eyes infected, Mr. Ernest Etheridge entered a Durham hospital for treatment Sunday. Reports state that the infection is serious and that he will be confined there for a week or ten days.