

## Respected Citizen Dies Here Saturday After Long Illness

Funeral Services Are Held for Mrs. J. B. H. Knight Yesterday

Mrs. J. Burke Haywood Knight, highly respected citizen and a prominent figure in the various phases of local community life during the greater part of half a century, died at her home on East Main Street here last Saturday morning. She had been in declining health for a long number of months, but her condition was not considered critical until a few days ago when pneumonia developed, the end coming peacefully.

Mrs. Knight was born in Rockland, Maine, on April 9, 1863, the daughter of the late Francis and Susan Rich Bullock, a prominent family in that state's pioneer days.

When she was only three years old her family moved to Baltimore where she studied in the leading schools of that period and was graduated from the Baltimore School of Art. It was during those years that she cultivated an able talent for the arts and finer things of life, and during the remainder of her days she found peace and solace in her work of art. Extensive travel, including trips to foreign lands and many interesting points in America, added to her store of knowledge and built an even keener appreciation for the nobler ideals of life. Her everyday living was marked by a beautiful simplicity, and no one ever held a greater devotion for family and friends than that held by her. She enjoyed youth and cherished the company and friendship of little children, for it was apparent she saw in them the finer qualities of hope and promise.

She met Dr. Knight while he was a medical student in Baltimore and in February, 1890, they were married. Soon thereafter they moved to the doctor's ancestral home at Knightdale, near Raleigh. After a brief stay there they located in Williamston in February, 1892, and settled down to a useful life of service to this community and its people.

Some time after coming to Williamston she joined the local Methodist church, remaining an active and helpful member for more than forty years, or until illness made it impossible for her to attend services and participate in religious work.

As librarian at the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore, she recognized more keenly the value of education and she and her family held prominent parts in the creation of educational opportunities for youth during a long period here.

She leaves three children, namely Burke Haywood Knight, of New York City; Mrs. W. K. Parker, of Williamston; and Charles A. Knight, of Wheeling, West Virginia, and four grandchildren. She also leaves one brother, Mr. Frederick F. Bullock, of New York.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock by her pastor, Rev. S. A. Maxwell, assisted by Rev. J. T. Stanford, Methodist minister, of Roper, and Rev. J. W. Hardy, of the local Episcopal church, and Rev. James H. Smith, pastor of the Williamston Memorial Baptist church. Interment was in the family plot in the local cemetery.

## Collins Players To Be Here Thursday

The first in the series of presentations by the Collins players will be staged in the high school auditorium here Thursday evening of this week.

Pietro Mordeia, heading the Mordeia Musical Merry-Makers who appear here on that date, has an interesting personal history that accounts in no small measure for his ability to entertain and captivate audiences.

Coming from an old Italian family, he absorbed music at an early age in his father's workshop, for his father was an accordion-maker of the old school and in fact made the first accordion ever built in this country. Naturally Pietro learned to play as a child, toddled around with a small accordion strapped to him when other children were still learning their ABC's.

But when young Pietro was 16, his father sent him back to the old country to Genoa, to learn to build pipe-organs. A little of that was enough, however, and back he came to the United States, land of his choice, and he has never been far from a piano-accordion since.

Almost as interesting is the story of his daughters, who will be with him on this tour and who almost match their talented father in ability on the traditional family instrument.

The program is sponsored by the local Junior Woman's club.

Return to Richmond

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Tyner have returned to their home in Richmond after a visit here with their daughter, Mrs. S. V. Tallman and Mr. Tallman.

## Farmer Organization Is Needed More Than Ever, Leaders Declare

### PEANUT CROP

Peanut digging is fast being brought to a close in the county this week, reports stating that only a few farmers have the task before them. In one or two sections, farmers were late planting the crop and in those cases digging operations are not expected to get underway before the latter part of this or early next week.

General reports maintain that the crop is of better quality than was first expected, that the quantity will exceed the preliminary estimates, but that the production will fall under normal yields.

The price situation looks fairly bright and some farmers believe it will exceed the stabilized figure.

## Series Of Wrecks Reported In County Over The Week-end

Five Persons Are Slightly Hurt And \$750 Property Damage Done

Following a lull of nearly a month in the weird business of wrecking motor vehicles, injuring humans and damaging property, Martin County motorists unofficially declared the safety holiday ended last week-end and started adding to a record that even surpasses World War events. Four crashes were reported during the week-end period, resulting in five injured and a property loss roughly estimated at \$753.50.

A review of the accident record in this county to date shows that there have been 47 wrecks, 42 injured, seven killed and a property damage of nearly \$10,000.

Last Saturday night, John A. Manning, driving Dr. A. J. Osteen's car, crashed into a stalled automobile on the Hamilton Highway, near Allen's filling station. The doctor suffered cuts about the body and was painfully bruised in the chest. Manning suffered a skinned place on his head and small cuts on his elbows and knees. Both of the victims are able to be out. The stalled car, belonging to LeRoy Purvis, colored man, had run out of gas and two men were pushing it down the road, one of them obscuring the rear light from the view of the driver of the Osteen car. The lights of a third car blinded the driver and he did not see it in time to avoid an almost direct hit in the rear. The two men pushing the car jumped to safety. Damage to the cars was estimated at \$400.

Charles Keel and Fred Clark were slightly bruised when their car, an old model Ford, crashed into the guard railing on the fill leading to the river bridge Sunday afternoon. Damage to their car was estimated at \$50 or about half the amount of the worth of the car.

Catching his foot under an automobile wheel as he talked to the car occupants, C. F. Waddell, Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company employee, was thrown down in front of his home on West Main Street Sunday afternoon and suffered a broken leg.

James Hodges bumped his car into that of A. S. Bone on the Slaughter house road, doing about \$3.50 damage, and slightly injuring a person who was standing on the bumper of the Bone car Sunday afternoon.

Earlier last week, a State highway truck and one owned by Mr. C. M. Hurst crashed on the Robersonville-Stokes Highway and damaged the cars to the extent of about \$300.

## Hitler Peace Offer Weighed By Allies

A lull surrounds warring activities in Europe today as Britain and France weigh a peace offer advanced by Adolf Hitler. Doubt continues to surround the war front as relations between countries are strained and no definite course is offered by any one.

Hitler warned the Allies again today that if his peace plan is not accepted, Germany will fight to a finish in one way or another. France's Daladier is offering a first reply to Hitler's offer this afternoon. Britain's offer has been delayed until Thursday.

During the meantime the war tempo is being accelerated on land and sea, heavy firing being reported along the Western Front and off the coast of Norway.

The first test on the neutrality bill is due this afternoon in the U. S. Congress when a vote will be taken to consider sending the measure back to committee for alteration.

## Bureau Federation Makes Large Gains In County Recently

Drive Adds More Than 400 Members To Date; 1,000 Goal In Sight

"There is a greater need for a strong farm organization right now than ever before," J. E. Winslow, president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, told a small group of Martin County farmers in the Martin County agricultural building here last night.

Coming together to report on their membership drive, leaders of the canvassing teams reported approximately 400 members already signed and optimistically claimed that a goal of 1,000 members would be reached before the campaign is ended. Captain Charlie Daniel, heading the strong "Blue" organization, and Captain Joe Winslow, heading an equally strong and possibly a little stronger organization called "Reds" in the place of a better name, hesitated to show their real strength. It is apparent that they are playing the old war game of waiting for a real show down when the right time comes. They admitted, however, that the combined efforts of the campaign to date have netted about 400 members. And the boys are optimistic over the outlook.

Looking ahead at the farm problems that are to be expected not in 1940, but in 1941, 1942 and on, Mr. J. E. Winslow, president of the State Farm Bureau, clearly stressed the value of a strong organization. He reviewed the work of the organization and its accomplishments, citing in particular the aid that has been rendered the farmers in a stabilized peanut market, and in bringing relief to the tobacco grower. "If it had not been for the Farm Bureau and its president, Ed O'Neal, the government could not have come to the aid of the tobacco farmer when the markets open tomorrow. Back yonder when the Farm Bureau leadership realized a record tobacco crop was in the making, its leaders prepared and had enacted into law within 30 days a bill allowing the Secretary of Agriculture to call a tobacco referendum at any time prior to December. If it had not been for the Farm Bureau there would be no 119 million dollars for the Commodity Credit Corporation to use in taking over the Imperial Tobacco Company's place on the markets tomorrow," Mr. Winslow said.

Looking at the program not from (Continued on page four)

## Cotton Referendum To Be Held In The South December 9th

Quota System For Cotton Has Been In Effect During Past Two Years

Cotton farmers of North Carolina will join with others in the South in voting on December 9 as to whether marketing quotas similar to those in effect for the last two seasons shall be applied to the 1940 crop, it was announced by E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer of State College.

"Most cotton farmers are thoroughly familiar with marketing quotas," Floyd said, "as they have used them for the last two years to avoid adding to our already large cotton supply and to protect the markets of farmers who plant within their acreage allotments. Without quotas, producers who overplant might defeat the efforts of those trying to adjust the market supply to demand and normal carry-over."

The national cotton quota proclaimed by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace for 1940 is the same as for 1939. This will make possible, with normal yields, the marketing within the quota of approximately 12 million bales during the year beginning August 1, 1940.

Approval by two-thirds of the nation's eligible cotton growers who vote in the December 9 referendum is required to continue quotas in effect for 1940. The 1939 quota was approved by 84.1 per cent of the growers voting.

Floyd pointed out that the conservation phases of the Agricultural Conservation Program will continue to operate regardless of the outcome of the December 9th referendum. "However, marketing quotas assure growers participating in the AAA farm program who plant within their acreage allotments that their efforts to adjust supplies will not be nullified by non-cooperators," he declared.

Comparatively small crowds were present here this morning for the re-opening of the markets, but there was a greater interest in the price trends than was evident when the markets first opened in August.

Realizing that they can't possibly get a sale before the latter part of the week, many farmers are centering their attention on activities back home. Fair-sized crowds are expected throughout the week, however. Crowded conditions on the streets and in the amusement houses were partly relieved by the schools where thousands of children are being held.

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## Extend Rural Power Lines Into Griffins Township Recently

Williamston District Serving 1,312 Customers on 368 Miles of Lines

Launched back in 1936, the rural electrification program has been gradually but steadily advanced by the Virginia Electric and Power company until there are approximately 50 miles of rural power lines in this county with well over 200 customers enjoying the modern service.

At the present time the Williamston district is maintaining a total of 368 miles of strictly rural lines and serving a total of 1,312 customers outside incorporated towns, the figures not including those lines and customers located on lines connecting towns. Nor do these figures include the number of miles of line and of customers handled by the Federal Rural Electrification Administration or by any individual systems.

The Virginia Electric and Power Company has invested possibly more than \$50,000 in advancing the rural electrification program, and its contracts are proving highly satisfactory over the county. It has lines in eight of the ten townships of the county.

Just recently the company energized approximately three additional miles of line in Griffins Township, adding nearly fifteen customers to the system. The line hooks on at the Pleny Peel home and circles around to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Griffin, near Smithwicks Creek, running via the Claudius Hardison and Sylvester Peel homes.

Some time ago Mr. Sylvester Peel, one of the county's finest citizens, expressed the desire that he could live long enough to see a rural line in his community and lights in his home. His wish fulfilled, Mr. Peel is all fixed for a number of years to come to enjoy the modern conveniences offered by the rural power line.

The extension recently energized is a part of one of the longest rural lines in the county. Starting at Williamston, the line runs to the Lilley Brothers' community, thence to Farm Life, thence to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pleny Peel and on to the Griffin home, near Smithwicks Creek, a distance of slightly more than 20 miles with nearly 100 customers.

Finding how successfully the rural electrification program is being advanced by the Virginia Electric and Power Company, other rural communities are said to be considering contracts for the service.

## Large Quantity Of Tobacco And Two Barns Are Burned

Mysterious Fires Wiped Out Property on the Thigpen Farm Saturday Night

Fires of undetermined origin burned the stables, a packbarn and a large quantity of tobacco on the J. F. Thigpen farm just off East Church Street here early last Saturday night, resulting in a loss estimated in excess of \$4,000. The property was insured for approximately \$3,000. Fire Chief G. P. Hall said in his report:

Believed to have been started by some firebug or by one of two hunters who were chased from the Thigpen farm a short time ago, the fire started apparently about the same time in two buildings separated by about thirty feet. A third building, housing tools and other small farming equipment and standing in close range to both the other buildings, was saved.

Mrs. Aletha Gardner, who lives on Dinah's Hill just a short distance from the barns said when she first saw the fires, one was breaking through the top of the stables and the other was burning rapidly within the packbarn. By the time an alarm could be sounded both buildings were burning rapidly and members of the volunteer fire department and others centered their efforts on preventing the fires from spreading to other buildings.

It was estimated that more than 10,000 pounds of good quality tobacco were destroyed at a loss of possibly \$2,000. The barn with a rat-proof corn crib was valued at \$1,500 with only \$500 insurance on it, and the stables, valued at \$750, were only partially covered by insurance.

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## Tobacco Prices for the Second Opening Are Not Up to Farmer's Expectation; 13-Cent Average

## Jas. Whitehurst Is Seriously Shot On East Main Street

Rander Jones, Colored, Admits Shooting Saturday Night After Arrest

James Whitehurst, Bertie County colored man, was critically shot on East Main Street here last Saturday night, officers arresting and formally charging Rander Jones, colored, with the shooting a short time later. Shot in the lower abdomen, Whitehurst lies critically ill in a Washington hospital, his intestines punctured in eleven places. Following an operation, doctors said yesterday that very little hope was held for his recovery.

Jones has had very little to say so far about the shooting, but reports maintain that a woman figured in the case. While it is possible Jones will maintain he shot in self-defense, he has taken no steps to fight the case, a hearing having been delayed pending the outcome of the victim's condition. When questioned yesterday, Jones admitted the shooting.

Jones, an employee of a local lumber mill, and Lewis Williams, Jr., were on the river wharf road, near the Harris filling station, talking when Whitehurst approached them and said to Jones, "I had rather you talk about me than talk about my girl." Williams told officers that Whitehurst called Jones to one side, that the two had talked less than a minute before the shot was fired. Whitehurst slumped to the ground and Jones ran to his shanty to the rear of the Saunders and Cox mill yard and went to bed.

Investigating the case, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Deputy Bill Haislip learned from Whitehurst that Jones did the shooting. Going immediately to the Jones home, the officers were advised by Jones' wife that he had been home all evening. Jones started to get up as the sheriff entered the room, but when the man learned the identity of the officer he fell back and started snoring. The Jones woman was held temporarily for an investigation.

Whitehurst, street corner banjo-pieker, came here a short time ago and was visiting relatives for several weeks.

## Relief Costs Are Reviewed In State Of North Carolina

Some Over Six Millions Are Spent For Relief During The Past Year

By A. LAURANCE AYDLETT

What is relief costing North Carolina? The question frequently pops into the minds of county officials and private citizens in North Carolina. But relief as it is used to be known is vastly different from the assistance programs now in effect in continental United States and its insular possessions in that the modern ideas of aid represent an attempt to give an assistance that will be permanent and continuing rather than something merely to relieve the suffering of the moment.

Care of the poor that for centuries past devolved entirely on the locality itself with wasteful methods of parceling out the community's surplus resources in varying amounts to whoever might on occasion be considered needy in the lack of any set standards of measurement of poverty, was relief.

People would laugh today at the thought of a North Carolina official casting coins from his automobile as it passed along the highways, or at a Superior court judge who threw open the gates of his back yard and invited any hungry people within four blocks to a fish fry or barbecue. They wouldn't have the money.

Years ago taxes went to the crown and were the king's personal property, and it was the king who was the government of the land. Later political changes placed the country's ruler in the position of a figurehead, of a standard about which the loyalties of an empire could rally. Only in the last few years has the social lag begun to catch up with changing economic and political conditions.

Modern democratic concepts have given the tax receipts to the government and have said that the government is the people. So it is today that it is the government that has the money and not the official; and that is why the government is beginning to look after the unfortunate in a three-fold program of national, state and local interest and responsibility. In this newer light, the question is (Continued on page four)

### BOARD MEETS

Meeting in special session here yesterday, the county board of education took no definite action toward relieving crowded conditions on the bus serving the Parmele colored school. Patrons along the bus route will be asked to help raise the purchase price with the understanding that the State will assume its operation, the county to bear a part of the purchase cost.

George A. Oglesby was appointed committeeman for the Oak City school district to succeed T. B. Slade, resigned. Investigating a possibility of changing a teacher from the Hassell colored school to a plant in Cross Roads, the board learned that Hassell patrons got busy and boosted the attendance to stay the transfer.

## Willis S. McKeel Dies At His Home Here Early Sunday

Funeral Services Held in the Pentecostal Church Yesterday

Willis S. McKeel, retired farmer and merchant, died at his home here on North Houghton Street early Sunday morning following an illness of two weeks' duration. Suffering a stroke of paralysis nearly two years ago, he had been in feeble health since that time, but he was able to be up until about two weeks ago. Heart trouble developed and caused his death.

The son of the late John and Sarah Cherry McKeel, he was born in the Flat Swamp section of Pitt County on July 31, 1879, and spent his early life there on a farm. When a young man he married Miss Willie Alice Clark, of near Everetts, and moved to this county. Most of his life was spent in and around Williamston, but a few years ago he moved to Virginia and entered the mercantile business near Emporia. While there he was also engaged in the timber business for a short time. Experiencing ill health he returned here to make his home.

Following the death of his first wife in January, 1933, he married Mrs. Bessie Spruill, of Bertie County, and she survives him. He also leaves nine children, Virgil, C. B., J. B., Jasper and Clarence McKeel, all of Whiteville; Mrs. Robert McChloron, of Oak City; Clayton McKeel, of Greenville; Miss Euzelia McKeel, of Scotland Neck, and Willis McKeel, Jr., of Baltimore, and one brother, Mr. Bill McKeel, of Poplar Point, and three sisters, Mrs. Emily Leggett, of Stokes; Mrs. Matilda Hodges and Mrs. Melissa Lilley, both of Beaufort County.

Mr. McKeel joined the church at Swamp Church in early youth, but more recently he attended the Pentecostal Holiness church here.

He was an able farmer, and had many friends in this section. Funeral services were conducted in the Pentecostal Holiness church, on North Houghton Street, yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock by Rev. D. J. Lilley, Holiness minister of Chocowinity. Interment was in the family plot in the local cemetery.

## Mrs. G. T. Cain Dies In County

Mrs. G. T. Cain, a native of Bertie County, died at her home at Ray's Camp on Gardner's Creek, this county, early yesterday morning of cancer, death bringing to an end a long period of intense suffering. Her affliction was borne without murmur, and following her return from a Durham hospital a few weeks ago she was resigned to her fate and was ready to pay the one great debt everyone must pay.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Ward before her marriage, she was the daughter of John H. and Hattie Rhodes Ward, of Bertie County. During the past seven years the family had made its home in this county, spending much of that time handling the activities at Ray's Camp. She was a member of the Shiloh Baptist church in Bertie County and was held in high esteem by all who knew her. She was a thoughtful neighbor and was appreciative of the friendship of others.

She was the last member of her immediate family. No children were born to the union and only her husband survives her. After laying in state in the Biggs Funeral Home here last night, the body was removed to the Cain family cemetery near Palmyra, Halifax County, following funeral services conducted at the funeral home by Rev. J. W. Hardy, local Episcopal minister.

## Tobacco Deliveries Reach An All-Time Record Here Today

Upward Price Trend Expected As Soon As Rush Sales Are Over

Closed for a month, the tobacco markets reopened today with prices ranging a fraction higher than the closing day figure on September 12. Farmers are generally expressing disappointment, but there were comparatively few tags turned during the first selling period on the market here this morning. During the early morning selling period, the price average hovered slightly under thirteen cents with the prices ranging from two to thirty cents.

The first sales, covering a fair quality of tobacco, averaged a fraction over 15 cents. The next row, covering an inferior type of leaf and not over two piles in the Imperial grades, averaged only \$10.50 per hundred pounds. On the next row the price trend climbed to \$12.50 and hovered right around that figure during the remainder of the first hour of selling.

It is apparent that prices are slightly higher than they were on September 11 and 12, the last two selling days before the holiday went into effect. However, it is also apparent that the price average is little if any higher than that recorded on Friday before the markets closed on the following Tuesday.

Cheap tobacco is selling cheaper than it did a few days before, the market closed, and the better grades are barely holding their own. Comparative estimates indicate that prices are from four to five cents under the opening-day quotations on August 22 and from one and one-half to two cents above the closing day figure, September 12.

Very little of the better-type tobacco was included in the first sales this morning, and when those types were reached a satisfactory average was received by growers. For instance, Lilley and Modlin sold 290 pounds at 23, 280 pounds at 25, 276 pounds at twenty-two and one-half and 364 pounds at 25 for an average of just about 24 cents. Quite a few sales ranking right along with this one were noticed, but the buyers would then strike a streak of inferior types and the average would tumble.

The government Commodity Credit Corporation, operating through the Imperial Company's set-up, was holding its prices well in line with a guaranteed average of slightly more than 19 cents for its purchases. Only a small portion of the early offerings could be graded by the company, however, and an upward trend in prices was anticipated as the sales progressed and better types of tobacco were found.

Made ready for the markets weeks ago, some of the tobacco offered for sale this morning was slightly damaged and that had a tendency to pull down the price average. But despite inferior quality leaf and damaged lots, the growers were earnestly expecting an average in the neighborhood of fifteen cents. There is reason to believe that the average will be reached and maintained despite the record-size crop.

Reliable reports coming from other markets maintain that the current price average is very little better than it was on closing day, September 12.

Warehouses are filled to overflowing here and throughout the belt and markets are tightly blocked. Just when the block will be cleared is problematical, some believing that the congestion on the local market will be relieved, partially at least, by the latter part of this week.

At noon today well over a million pounds awaited the buyers here. The six-hour selling day went in to effect today, and as far as it could be learned no steps have been definitely taken to alter the length of the selling period or the selling week.

Comparative reports reaching here shortly after the noon hour clearly indicated that tobacco prices paid on the local market are absolutely in line with those on other markets, that sales can be made as quickly and as advantageously here as anywhere.

## Elder Pittman To Preach At Smithwicks Creek Friday

Elder R. H. Pittman, of Luray, Va., will preach at Smithwicks Creek church Friday, October 13th. The service will be held promptly at 11 o'clock and all members of the church are extended a cordial invitation to attend and bring their friends.

Mrs. M. J. Norton is in Watts hospital this week for treatment.