

## Jno. T. Edmondson Dies At Home Here After Long Illness

Was Servant of the Public For Nearly Quarter of A Century

John T. Edmondson, well-known county citizen, died at his home here last evening following an illness of more than three years' duration, the end coming peacefully at 8 o'clock with all members of the family at his bedside. Believed to have suffered a slight stroke, Mr. Edmondson fell in the local postoffice about three and one-half years ago. He had been in failing health since that time, his condition gradually growing worse month by month. About two weeks ago his condition became critical when he suffered another stroke.

The son of the late William and Pattie Grimes Edmondson he was born in Robersonville Township near Everett on June 7, 1881. He was an only son and after spending his early youth on the farm, he entered the mercantile business working for long intervals at Gold Point and Hamilton, later locating in Robersonville where he became connected with the post office. About 1914 he moved to Williamston where he served as a clerk in the post office, and soon thereafter was appointed to a place with the Rural Free Delivery Service. For nearly a quarter of a century he loyally and willingly served the public, his friendliness endearing him to his patrons. His efficient service was recognized by the authorities, and he found satisfaction in a task well done. Following his retirement from the postal service he enjoyed the supervision of his farm in Poplar Point Township. Making his last visit there just before the last Christmas holiday, he interested himself in the welfare of others and advanced plans for the benefit of others.

On March 25, 1902, he was married to Miss Hattie Wynne, of this county, and she with four daughters, Mrs. Herbert Taylor, Mrs. James Herbert Ward, Mrs. William Alston Daniel, all of Williamston, and Mrs. W. B. Claytor, Jr., of Whiteville, and one son, Jack Edmondson, of Williamston, survives. His life was devoted to his family. He appreciated the value of an education and Christian character, and to that end he bent his every energy, counselling his children in a definite but friendly way which was marked by understanding and mature consideration.

Joining the local Christian church about sixteen years ago, he expanded his religious experiences as the years passed, and in those experiences he found peace as life drew to a close. He was a member of the Skewerly lodge, and was active in the Democratic party activities and during the leave of absence from the postal service he served under former sheriff David Roberson as an efficient deputy.

Funeral services are being conducted from the late home on South Watts Street this afternoon at three o'clock by his pastor, Rev. J. L. Goff, assisted by Rev. J. M. Perry, of Robersonville. Interment will follow in the family plot in the public cemetery here.

## Charles L. Hinson Passes At Dardens Home Early Today

Funeral Tomorrow for Retired Railroad Man and Farmer

Charles Lawrence Hinson, prominent citizen of the Dardens community, died at his home there this morning at 9:30 o'clock of cancer, death marking the end of months of patient suffering. Mr. Hinson, in failing health for about a year, was able to be up until about a month ago when his condition became critical and he was forced to his bed.

Mr. Hinson, son of the late Charles L. and Terushia Davis Hinson, was born in the Dardens section of this county 73 years ago the fifth of last January. In early manhood he married and continued to live at the place of his birth.

When a young man he entered the railroad service and handled farming activities. Following his retirement from the railroad, he devoted his entire time to his farm until failing health forced him to abandon all work.

For more than half a century he was a loyal member of the Corinth Free Will Baptist Church serving faithfully many years as a deacon. He was held in high esteem by all who knew him, and he enjoyed a wide friendship throughout his community and in other sections. His walk through life was humble in the sight of the Creator. He was a good neighbor, remaining thoughtful of others at all times and asking little for himself.

Besides his wife he leaves three daughters, Mrs. Wilmer Tetterton and Misses Ethel and Addie Hinson, all of the home. He was the last member of his immediate family.

Funeral services will be conducted from the home tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock by his pastor, Rev. Duffie Toler, of Washington. Interment will follow in the new family cemetery near the home.

## Given Deed To Local Cemetery, Town Plans Enlargement Program

### RAINFALL

With one exception during the past ten years, the rainfall here last month was the smallest for any February on record, the weather station on Roanoke River reporting less than two inches of rain during the period. A year ago, the precipitation slightly exceeded seven inches.

The one exception was in February, 1938, when 1.59 inches were recorded at this point. It will be remembered in that year that little rain fell in the first three months, but heavy rains started falling in April and by the middle of July nearly 37 inches of rain were recorded at this point, drowning tobacco and damaging other crops.

## Bookmobile Lends 200 Books Monday To County Readers

Large Number Volumes Are Delivered to Library Here For Distribution

Making its second visit to this county, the Works Progress Administration Bookmobile was greeted by large numbers on its first day in the field yesterday, Miss Ella Mae Gaylord, handling the schedule in cooperation with the Williamston library and County Board of Education, stating that more than 200 books were distributed in the Poplar Point-Hamilton area.

The schedule for the bookmobile during the next two months on Thursday and Friday is, as follows: Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28, and April 4, 11, 18 and 25: Williamston Elementary School, 8:30 to 10 a. m.; Lilley's Store, 10:15 to 10:45 a. m.; Farm Life School, 11 to 1 p. m.; Corey's Cross Roads, 1:15 to 1:45 p. m.; Bear Grass School, 2 to 3:30 p. m.; Bear Grass Community House, 3:30 to 4 p. m.

Fridays, March 8, 15, 22 and 29, and April 5, 12, 19, and 26: Jordan's Store, Dardens, 9 to 10 a. m.; Brown's Store, 10:10 to 10:45 a. m.; Ange Town by intersection of road, 11 to 11:30 a. m.; Poplar Chapel Church, 11:45 to 12:30 p. m.; Clarence Wallace's Store, 1 to 1:30 p. m.; Jamesville High School, 1:45 to 3:15 p. m.; Brown's Store, 3:20 to 3:45; Holly

(Continued on page six)

## First Shipments Of Dolomitic Lime Are Received in County

Made available to farmers through federal grants of aid, the first shipments of dolomitic limestone are moving into this county, Farm Agent T. B. Brandon announcing this week that Farmer Van G. Taylor unloaded a solid carload of the material in Everetts last week-end. Other shipments are being made to farmers in the Robersonville area, and additional orders are now coming in from other sections in the county.

The lime is being made available to farmers under the soil conservation plan, the cost to be deducted from the amount due the farmers in soil-building payments in 1940. The cost is unusually low, and the agent points out that it is a wonderful opportunity for Martin farmers to improve their soils. Orders may be handled through the agent's office on a cooperative or community basis, it was explained.

## Street Parking Problem Gets Attention of Town Authorities

Acting upon the suggestion of the local chamber of commerce, Williamston authorities last evening directed attention to the baffling street parking problem on the main and Washington Street thoroughfares. While the approach to the problem was limited, it is now apparent that a beginning has been made to relieve the parking situation and promote a greater safety on local streets.

Going before the regular meeting of the town commissioners, a special committee from the commerce organization explained that highway officials had been consulted in an effort to relieve the parking situation. It was the committee's suggestion to maintain 45 degree-angle parking on one side of Main Street and parallel parking on the other with a two-hour parking limit to be set. On Washington Street, the committee, their action supported by

## Engineer Employed To Make Immediate Survey Of Property

Commissioners Discuss Varied Program of Business In Regular Meet

Receiving a deed from the trustees of the Williamston Memorial Baptist church yesterday afternoon, the local town commissioners, at the request of a Woman's Club committee ruled at their regular meeting last evening for immediate action in a program calling for the enlargement and improvement of the local cemetery. Neglected all these years and a center of disgrace to the town for a period equally as long, the cemetery will be enlarged to include about two adjoining acres lying just to the southwest of Rhodes Street.

Appearing before the board, the club committee composed of Mesdames L. B. Harrison, P. B. Cone, E. S. Peel, Erah Cobb and Miss Lora Sleeper recommended the construction of a fence around the old cemetery and the addition and the employment of a keeper, the improvement program to be determined by an engineer.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to accept the deed from the church committee, the town agreeing to pay \$10 for the property excepting, of course, all lots and subdivisions previously sold by the church. The deed carried the signatures of Messrs. Wheeler Martin, W. L. Taylor, Ben D. Courtney, W. R. Ingram and J. Sam Getsinger.

That the project might be advanced as rapidly as possible, Messrs. G. H. Harrison, Luther Peel and N. C. Green were named on a special committee by Mayor J. L. Hassell to work with the Woman's club committee. Works Progress Administration representatives were called in to the meeting and plans will be formulated at once for handling the work through that agency. Mr. Gates Matthews, WPA engineer, explaining that he felt certain the proposal would meet with the approval of his agency and that he believed it could be handled for a minimum cost. Improvement plans are to be advanced by Engineer Henry Rivers, who was employed during the meeting to handle the survey. He will report to the joint committee and just as soon as his plans are formulated the WPA

(Continued on page six)

## Store At Everetts Entered by Robber

For the second time within recent months, robbers broke into and robbed the Bullock filling station in Everetts last Saturday night taking eight or ten cartons of cigarettes and two or three boxes of cigars and a number of nickels from a slot machine.

Breaking a small piece of glass near the lock in the front door of the station, the robber ran his hand through the opening and unfastened the lock. No groceries or other articles were missed from the stock, the robber centering his attention on money and tobacco.

Several automobile tires and other articles were stolen from the store last fall. Arrests have been made in that case, but the latest robbery has not been solved, officers stating that they have been unable to establish a single clue that would lead to an arrest.

The robbery was the twelfth reported in the county so far this year, most of them remaining unsolved. Several of the robberies were in Williamston and are not chargeable to the record of county officers, it was explained.

## Martin Supply Firm Buys Perry's Store

Finding its present quarters too small for an expanding business, the Martin Supply Company, one of the town's newest business enterprises, has purchased the stock, store and good will of B. F. Perry, on Washington Street here. Mr. Perry announcing that he was retiring from the mercantile business after a long and successful career here and in Everetts.

Mr. Eddie Trahey, manager of the new firm, stated this morning that the Perry stock would be moved to the second floor of the building where it would be offered for sale at bargain prices. The new stock of the firm will be moved from the Bowen building across the street and stocked for regular sale on the first floor of the Perry building. Plans for moving the stocks are well advanced, and the big merchandising event will possibly be scheduled beginning the latter part of this week.

## Hearing Is Held In County Murder Here Last Saturday

Joe W. Moore, Charged with Killing Cheatham Ray, Denied Bond

Charged with the murder of Cheatham Ray, colored, in Jamesville the 18th of last month, Joe Willie Moore, colored, was denied bond by Justice J. L. Hassell here last Saturday when probable cause was found at a preliminary hearing held in the court house.

Represented by Pete Bell, colored attorney of Plymouth, Moore was said to have had a fair chance of being booked for murder in the second degree, but the charge carrying death penalty was lodged against the man on the strength of a statement made to State Witnesses Paul Holliday and Roy Peel. The defense attorney maintained during an hour and a half that Moore did not intentionally kill Ray, that he was after another man, Bob Moon, a white employee of a lumber mill where the other two men worked. Witnesses Peel and Holliday told the justice that Moore had declared to them soon after his arrest that he got the man he was after. The declaration was said to have been repeated following the preliminary hearing. With a clear case of murder in the first degree facing him, Moore was denied bond, the court ordering him returned to jail to await trial in the superior court week after next.

Said to have started over liquor, a quarrel in the Jamesville-lumber camp on Sunday, February 18, was climaxed when Moore fired a full load of gun shot into Ray's stomach. Ray died en route to a hospital.

After a period of little activity, the trial justice had a busy day Saturday handling the murder case preliminaries and several other charges which were referred to the superior court for trial.

Charged with seduction, James Roberson, colored, was bound over to the higher tribunal under a \$100 bond.

Waiving examination, Matthew Crandall, the colored man who allegedly broke into the home of Mrs. Lettie Griffin in Cross Roads Township last month, was bound over to the high court under bond in the sum of \$200.

## Directors Chamber Commerce In Meet Here Last Friday

Organization Rapidly Settling Down To Active Program For Community

Rapidly settling down to an active program of accomplishments for the town and community, the newly organized chamber of commerce here reviewed its recent activities at a meeting of its board of directors in the organization's offices over the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company last Friday evening.

During the past few weeks, the secretary, Billie Clark has written 146 letters to tourists stopping in Williamston during the current season, expressing pleasure in their visits and inviting them to return.

Officials in Washington and Raleigh, contacted by the secretary in connection with reported rumors about the proposed re-routing of U. S. Highway 17 across Albemarle Sound bridge and leaving out Eden-ton, Windsor and Williamston, assured the organization that no such plans had been or were being considered.

The organization is sponsoring three big dollar days in Williamston on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week.

Special committees were named to supplement the work of the organization as follows:

Membership: C. B. Clark, B. S. Courtney and C. T. Bowers. Finance and auditing: H. A. Bowen, R. H. Goodman and J. M. Saunders.

Publicity: F. M. Manning, J. D.

(Continued on page six)

## Commissioners Delay Action To Eliminate Office Of Treasurer

Final Decision Is Expected At Meet Here On March 18

Some Want And Others Do Not Want Office Abolished in This County

The office of treasurer in this county continues to hang by a rope or a thread, to your own liking, the county commissioners in regular session here yesterday deferring action on the proposal to abolish the job and turn the duties, money and all over to a bank where the county's finances would be handled possibly without cost to the taxpayers. A final decision is expected on Monday, March 18, when the commissioners will meet in special session, Board Chairman John E. Pope explaining that he and the members wanted to hear more from their constituents.

Action deferring the meeting was taken after the matter was discussed during the greater part of an hour and a half with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Staton and Mr. Joseph S. Griffin, of Bear Grass, leading the forces to abolish the office and with Messrs. G. H. Harrison and R. L. Coburn leading the forces against the proposal. The proposal was also supported by a petition carrying two or three dozen names, but individual letters setting out strong argument against abolishing the office, were placed before the meeting.

The proposal supporters maintained that the action would effect some economy, and in that connection one of them insinuated in a friendly manner, to be sure, that more economy should be practiced in county government, all government for that matter. Both sides offered their arguments, leaving the authorities a bit uncertain as to proper action that should be taken. As a result the matter was deferred two weeks during which time the general public is cordially invited to express itself on the matter.

Following the meeting, one of the commissioners pointed out that the problem was not easy to solve as there is more than one bank in the county and that to abolish the of-

(Continued on page six)

## Business Slacks Off In Sheriff's Office

While it was nothing like a vacation for the force, the sheriff's office had a fairly quiet month during February, the officer's monthly report showing a decrease in the number of arrests, number of papers served, taxes collected and so on.

The scene of activities shifted to the open road where the officers worked night and day week after week in an effort to break up a little crime wave that centered around robberies in six of the ten townships. The officers traveled almost equal to one-fifth the distance around the world in serving papers and trying to run down thieves and robbers.

Considerable activity was reported in the field by the A. B. C. enforcement division under the direction of Special Officer J. H. Roebuck. The detailed report, filed with the county commissioners in the regular March session, follows:

Taxes collected, \$3,686.41; warrants served, 6; capias served, 6; subpoenas served, 16; 26 civil papers served, 52 copies; claim and delivery papers, 1, 2 copies; investigations made, 10; stills destroyed (complete) 9; partial stills destroyed, 3; whiskey destroyed, 3 gallons; beer destroyed, 5200 gallons; arrests made by A.B.C. officer, 1; convictions by A.B.C. officer, 1; miles traveled, 3 cars, 4326; arrests on county jail record, 37.

## Preliminary Reports Point To Downward Trend In Values

Preliminary reports based on a hurried review of seven of the township tax scrolls point to a slight decrease in property values in the county for the current year, Supervisor S. H. Grimes said late yesterday. Losses approximating \$50,000 were reported in one township, Williamston, the gains approximating \$28,000 in Robersonville and smaller ones in Poplar Point and Hamilton being outmatched by the loss in the one township.

The hurried review of the listings shows gains in three townships, Robersonville, Poplar Point and Hamilton. Goose Nest reported a decrease in its listing amounting to around \$17,000. Griffins, and Williams reported decreases, but the amounts were not immediately determined. Reports from Bear Grass, Jamesville and Cross Roads have not yet been turned in by the list-takers. Unless



In a frank and clear statement, Clarence W. Griffin, Williamston attorney, announced his candidacy for the State House of Representatives from Martin County.

## Democrats Adding New Names To The May Primary Ballot

Preliminary Line-up Carries Names of Fifteen Candidates For Office

As the Republicans say there is no end to the national debt figure, so are the Democrats of North Carolina saying there is no limit to the number of candidates for governor of this commonwealth which someone has dared to call great. Two more names were mentioned during the week-end in connection with the race for governor, pushing the preliminary line-up to nine possible candidates whose intentions have been expressed but not supported in all cases with the necessary filing fee of \$105. Arthur Simmons, of Burlington, and Edwin P. Hale, Leaksville farmer, entered the field last week-end.

The tentative line-up for governor as it stands early today: J. M. Broughton, Raleigh; A. J. Maxwell, Raleigh; W. P. Horton, Pittsboro; Thomas Cooper, Wilmington; Arthur Simmons, Burlington; Edwin P. Hale, Leaksville; Paul Grady, Ken-

(Continued on page six)

## Receive Additional Soil Conservation Checks This Week

The advantage of the Federal government's soil-conservation program is being firmly established in this county as additional payments are being made to an increasing number of farmers.

The distribution of soil conservation checks is being advanced rapidly, the office of the county agent this week announcing the receipt of \$22,477.25, the amount increasing the total received to date to \$33,825.81. Hardly half of the checks have been received so far in the county, but more are expected from day to day, it was stated. Farmers are urged not to call for the checks until they have been notified directly by the agent's office.

According to unofficial reports, the check amounts range from around \$1 to almost \$500, the average being around \$75.

## Society For Control Of Cancer Will Hold Meet Here on Friday

Session Will Be Held in the Baptist Church At 10; Public Invited

Mrs. Marjorie B. Illig, of New York, imminent scientist and national commander of the Woman's Field Army of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, will deliver a public address in the Williamston Memorial Baptist Church on Friday morning of this week at 10 o'clock in preparation for the State field army's enlistment and educational campaign in April. It was announced today by Mrs. W. W. Stinemetes, of Elizabeth City, vice commander of the first district.

The meeting is one of several being held in the State and representatives of various organizations in twenty or more towns in northeastern North Carolina are expected to attend the meeting here. The general public is invited and urged to attend, the vice commander stating that it was sincerely hoped a large crowd would hear the noted speaker as she discusses a subject that is of vital concern to so many, many people today.

The field army was mobilized in 1936 in an effort to unite the activities of science and medicine with those of club and civic leaders in a nation-wide war on cancer, which ranks second among diseases as a destroyer of human life. In less than four years, it has become one of the major health movements, with branches organized in 46 states and the District of Columbia.

Mrs. Illig's career in education and health work has given her an excellent background for the office of national commander of the field army to which she was appointed in 1937. A graduate of Sargent College and a former teacher in physical education, Mrs. Illig was physiotherapist with the medical department of Uncle Sam's army during the last World War. Her active interest in cancer dates from the period of 1919 to 1925 during which she served in private and hospital practice as an X-ray technician in her home state of Massachusetts.

Probably club women of this State know Mrs. Illig best through her six years of service as national health chairman for the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

During the educational and enlistment campaign of the coming weeks, the field army will have the active participation in its program of more than 625 national and state organizations, fraternal societies, women's clubs, and other groups. This program, both nationally and locally, is supervised by members of the medical profession. The cancer committee of the North Carolina Medical Society, of which Dr. Henry B. Ivey, of Goldsboro, is chairman, supervises the program being developed in this State.

The campaign of the field army will reach its climax in April, which has been set aside by a special act of Congress and presidential proclamation as National Cancer Control Month. Similar action has been taken by the General Assembly and by Governor Hoke. An annual membership costs one dollar, 70 cents of which is returned to the state for its work while the other portion is used in the promotion of the national program. The campaign slogan is "early cancer is curable, fight it with knowledge."

## Attendance Figures For Sunday Services In Local Churches

Ministerial Group Advancing Plans For Special Easter Services

By REV. JOHN L. GOFF.  
Sunday in the churches of Williamston saw quite an improvement in attendance in the Bible school, Young People's meetings and the evening service. While this improvement looks good in comparison to the previous Sunday it ought not to represent the desire of the people of Williamston to worship God and share in the fellowship of His sanctuary. Below are the figures of attendance upon the Sunday schools, young people's meetings and church services:

	S.S.	Y.P.	A.M.	P.M.
Baptist	138	15	100	39
Christian	136	10	125	25
Episcopal	18		78	
Methodist	78	18	70	30
Presbyterian	25		40	
Holiness	120		150	

Increased attendance is anticipated on all church fronts with the approach of the spring season.

The Williamston Ministerial Association met Monday morning in the Baptist Church in its regular monthly meeting. Plans were worked out for the non-day services to be held in the Watts Theatre at 12 o'clock beginning on the 18th and continuing through that week. Working through the Chamber of Commerce the stores will hold a skeleton force and permit as many of their employees to attend as possible. Special music will feature the services which are planned for thirty minutes only.