

## County Authorities Delay Action On Tax Revaluation

### Advertising of Delinquent Tax Accounts Definitely Scheduled

Discussing the problem centering around fair assessments for county taxation, the board of county commissioners in regular session here yesterday welcomed the opportunity to delay action until the first Monday in December when the newly elected authorities will be forced to handle the duty. It was quite evident from the discussion heard at the meeting that a revaluation of all real and personal properties will be ordered. Reports state that the board members readily admitted there were inequalities, and they earnestly discussed plans for ironing out those inequalities. At least one of the members suggested that an expert be called in from another section of the State to handle the task. It was pointed out that a stranger would have no friends or favorites, that the same medicine would be "spooned out" to all alike. At the same time it was pointed out that a stranger, even an expert, would have no concrete idea of values in this county. The discussion ended, the authorities agreed that they were no nearer a solution than they were when they started.

The advertising of the delinquent county tax list was definitely scheduled for Friday of this week when no petition was received urging a delay. In accordance with the law, the properties upon which taxes have not been paid for the tax year 1939 will be advertised for four weeks and offered for sale by the sheriff on the first Monday in November.

Agreeing to clear the thirty acres of land surrounding the highway patrol radio station and adjoining the county home, J. Frank Weaver was leased the property for five years.

William Edwin Moore, of Jamesville Township, and George Lilley, of Griffins Township, were exempted from the payment of poll taxes on account of physical disabilities.

A tax relief order was granted to Mingo Rogers for taxes levied against two mules listed both in his name and in the name of the W. H. Rogers estate.

The board asked that the Johnson bridge on the old Hamilton Road near the Davenport farm be enlarged to care for waters running off the Rufus Chance farm.

Carrying the names of 42 automobile and truck owners, a petition was presented the board urging that a WPA project be launched for the widening of the Manning Road in Griffins and Jamesville Townships from Jack Corey's to the George Martin place on the Jamesville-Washington Highway.

Jurymen were drawn for the special term of Martin County Superior court convening next month.

## County Young Men Enter CCC Camps

Fourteen young Martin County men entered the Civilian Conservation Corps last week. For the first time the number of white applicants did not equal the quota allotted the county.

The names of the white youths entering the service are: Joseph Hardison, Earl James, Thelbert Whitely, William Beach, William Clark, Cecil Pierce, Woodrow Wynne and Lester White. The names of the colored boys: George Moore, Zeb Gaynor, Dave Purvis, John Lyons, Joseph Hood and Sam Hooper.

## Farmers Make Change In A. A. A. Committee

## Martin Elected To Head Committee As 1941 Chairman

Roy T. Griffin, Williamston Man, Is New Member of County Committee

With hardly ten per cent of their number participating, Martin County farmers altered the personnel to some extent on their AAA farm committees and effected a re-distribution of the county committee personnel in a series of farm elections last week. The climax in the balloting was reached Saturday morning when the duly elected delegates met in the county agricultural building and named C. C. (Frosty) Martin, of Jamesville, chairman; J. F. Crisp, of Oak City, vice chairman, and Roy T. Griffin, of Williamston, regular member. W. L. Ausbon, of Cross Roads, was elected first alternate, and W. M. Harrison, a regular member on the old board, was elected second alternate.

Expressing no dissatisfaction against the old board members and (Continued on page four)

## Commissioners Order Sale of Delinquent City Tax Accounts

Williamston's commissioners, limiting action to the ordering of the sale of delinquent tax accounts and establishing a \$100 license for the sale of fireworks, spent most of their regular meeting last evening receiving.

Appearing before the board as members of a Woman's Club committee, Mrs. E. S. Peel and Mrs. Joel Mused asked that they consider zoning the town for future building, including limitations for locating filling stations and regulations for residential building. The request was placed in the hopper of unfinished business for consideration at some future meeting. The committee also asked the commissioners to tackle the rest room problem and make some provision for remedying a bad situation. The problem was carried over as unfinished business. Asked about the cemetery project, the commissioners stated that it is hard-

## Suggest Members For County's Draft Board

### TAX COLLECTIONS

It was virtually certain at noon today that the delinquent tax list for the tax period of 1939 will not be as large as it was a year ago, the collector stating that \$38,000 had been poured into the county coffers during the past few days. The amount reduced the unpaid total to a new low figure, the sheriff explained.

After setting a record collection of more than \$7,000 in a single day last week, the officer stated that collections have ranged up to \$3,000 during recent days.

## Victim Of Hunger Died Early Today

Nora Rice, aged colored woman, died at her home on Broad Street here at 8 o'clock this morning, the victim of hunger and cancer.

Allegedly denied food by her husband, the woman at one time weighed hardly fifty pounds and was referred to as a walking skeleton. Her husband, Wheeler Rice, was finally called to account for the alleged mistreatment of his wife and he is now serving a two-year sentence on the roads following the ailing of the case charging him with cruelty to a human being. The case attracted much attention at that time.

Her husband removed, the woman gained weight rapidly but she never fully regained her strength. The enforced hunger period of long weeks was partially responsible for her death, doctors declare. However, cancer was given as the immediate cause of her death. It was reported that Rice was starving his wife to death so he could get the house and lot for himself. Unofficial reports state that the aged woman willed the property to her relatives. No children were born to the union.

Nora Rice, according to records in the welfare office here, was born in Pitt County on October 1, 1865. She had lived in this county much of her life. Arrangements for the funeral were not completed immediately.

## Education Board In Regular Meet

### ROAD CONTRACT

News of the letting of a contract for repairing and improving the Roanoke River fill damaged by flood waters last August is being anxiously awaited here. The State Highway and Public Works Commission is scheduled to receive bids on the project in Raleigh tomorrow.

Unconfirmed reports state that the contract price will possibly exceed \$200,000, that the completion of the project is due within nine months.

### Peanut Stabilization Officer Files Report

At the annual meeting of the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative directors in Edenton last Friday, the president, R. C. Holland, filed an enlightening report on the organization's activities during the past year. Mr. Holland stated that one thing was apparent in the operation of the association and that was the accomplishments of the purpose for which it was created.

Farmer W. Robert Everett attended the meeting from this county.

## Serious Trouble Now Anticipated In The Far East

### Royal Air Force Is Steadily Gaining Parity With Nazi Airmen

The scheduled closing of the Burma Road, main route for the delivery of supplies into China, is expected to aggravate the unrest in the Far East, and today American subjects are being directed to leave that area. "While no serious trouble is expected immediately, the step was considered as a safeguard to the lives of the Americans," an official report stated today. Japan is demanding more air ports in Indo-China, and the demands have been refused. Some observers are of the opinion that the next outbreak of the world struggle will be centered in the Far East. Japan has warned that the closing of the Burma route will constitute an act of war.

Speaking before Parliament today, Prime Minister Churchill reported on the state of the British Empire. He pointed out the growing confidence and declared that the Royal Air Force was gaining steadily over the Nazi airmen. He referred to the extensive and damaging air raid over Berlin last night. More than 100 bombs were dropped in the heart of Berlin during a raid lasting nearly five hours. Giant powerhouses were wrecked along with a number of other military objectives. Fifty bombers were over London today, and more historic buildings were wrecked there.

Explaining that Hitler and Mussolini had decided to push for a 100 per cent destruction of Britain at their Brenner Pass conference last week, Prime Minister Churchill told the Parliament that it would require the German air force ten years to destroy one-half the houses in London if they make no greater progress in the future than they had made in recent months.

## Special Committee Makes Selections In Meeting Today

### R. H. Goodman, Dr. Jesse Ward and Joe H. Ayers Get Recommendations

Machinery for administering the draft law in this county was tentatively set up today when a special committee, composed of Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne, Election Board Chairman Sylvester Peel and Superintendent of Schools J. C. Manning recommended R. H. Goodman, Dr. Jesse Ward and Joe H. Ayers for places on the draft board. The recommendations are being forwarded to Raleigh for consideration at the hands of Governor Hoy who holds the power of appointment. The recommendations of the special committee are virtually assured the governor's approval, and final appointment is expected within the next few days.

A member of the special committee, commenting on the work of the group, stated that while there was some hesitancy in accepting the posts, the reaction to the call to service was very encouraging. Taking a large list of names of persons considered eligible for the posts, the committee last Saturday was assured that two would serve, a third could not be reached. While several explained that they were not in a position to handle the work, they would serve if no one else would accept.

When confronted with the tentative assignments, every one of the group said that they would willingly surrender the job to anyone else, but that since thousands of young men were being called to the service they felt it their duty to accept the call tendered them.

In addition to the draft board itself, the special committee recommended Attorney Wheeler Martin for the post of appeal agent, and Dr. J. S. Rhodes as examining physician. Mr. Martin served as appeal agent during the 1917-18 draft.

The membership of the draft board is fairly evenly distributed over the county. Dr. Jesse Ward, who lives in Robersonville, is widely known over the county. Mr. J. H. Ayers, Oak City man, is a Legionnaire who has a wide acquaintance in the upper part of the county. Mr. R. H. Goodman, former service man, lives in Williamston and he is also well-known.

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## Prices On Williamston Market Continue To Swing Upward As Sales Near Four Million Pounds

### Respected Citizen Died In Hospital Saturday Evening

Mrs. Melissa Worsley Keel, highly respected Oak City woman, died in a Rocky Mount hospital Saturday evening about 8:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Her condition becoming suddenly worse last Wednesday, Mrs. Keel was immediately removed from her home in Oak City to the hospital where she underwent an operation about three years ago. Since her first operation she had experienced ill health, but was able to be up most of the time until recently.

### Funeral Services Held For Mrs. W. G. Keel Near Oak City Monday

The daughter of the late Nathan and Sarah Long Worsley, she was born near Oak City 57 years ago. She lived there all her life and was held in high esteem by all who knew her. She was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church at Conoho for a long number of years, remaining faithful in its service until the end.

About ten years ago she was married to Mr. W. G. Keel, who survives her. No children were born to the union, but in addition to her husband, she leaves two stepsons, Lester Keel, of Oak City, and Howard Keel, of Edgecombe County, and a brother, Mr. N. W. Worsley, of Oak City, and three sisters, Mrs. J. H. Wiggins, of Pinetops, and Mrs. D. L. Johnson and Mrs. Effie Chesson, both of Oak City.

Funeral services were conducted from the church at Conoho yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by her pastor, Elder W. E. Grimes. Interment was in the churchyard.

Mrs. Keel, thoughtful of others and whose life was marked by its fine Christian ideals, was the third member of her immediate family to die since last April, a brother and a sister preceding her to the grave just a few months ago.

## Gives Figures On Church Attendance

### By REV. S. J. STARNES, Pastor, Methodist Church

The weather was ideal last Sunday, but the attendance at the various churches did not come up to expectations. Sunday schools fared a little better than preaching services, as a whole, while some Sunday schools were considerably "off." Only three of the churches have an evening young peoples meeting, and these combined showed an attendance of 50.

In the Sunday school 463 were reported, while the morning preaching services drew only 389 and the evening services 288.

Williamston people would do well to ponder the attendance figures from week to week, that all may see just how the community is neglecting its greatest asset. No community can build in the finest way where the influence of the church is underestimated and neglected, just as no individual can build a good character where the principles of religion are ignored. The attendance figures follow:

	Church			
	S.S.	Y.P.	A.M.	P.M.
Baptist	72	11	100	35
Christian	80	14	137	35
Episcopal	35		14	
Methodist	51	25	67	43
Holiness	125		115	175
Totals	389	50	463	288

## Church Attendance Ministers' Problem

The Ministerial Association of Williamston held its regular monthly meeting Monday morning at the Baptist Church. All the ministers of the town were present. The chief topic discussed was church attendance.

Many people have commented during the last few weeks about the small congregations in the town. With a white population of over 2,000 people, the total church attendance, usually does not amount to over 300 to 350 people a Sunday. This means further that only about 600 or 700 different people attend during the course of each month. This estimate is very high. In order to remedy this situation steps were proposed to set up an organization composed of three members from each church.

This group will meet on Friday night at 7:30 at the Christian Church. It is hoped that something can be worked out which will remedy this very grave situation in our community.

## Rev. M. L. Ambrose To Preach At Christian Chapel

A revival will start at Christian Chapel, Cross Roads, Monday night, October 14th. Rev. M. L. Ambrose will conduct the services. The public is invited.

## Registration To Be Supported By Drastic Penalty

### Boom Is Reported Here During Past Few Selling Days

While there is no expressed wish to threaten its subjects, the Government of the United States has already warned that it means business in calling for the registration of young men in the 21-35 age group. No direct notice directing the young men to register is being issued. But a general call has gone out and the man in the specified age group who fails to register on Wednesday, October 16, will be subjected to a five-year prison sentence or a \$10,000 fine or both.

### Highest Average of Season Is Chalked Up at \$21.89 Here Yesterday

Tobacco prices, showing added strength during the latter part of last week, continued upward yesterday when the highest average of the season was officially entered in the records at \$21.89. Farmers were more than pleased with their sales, some receiving averages ranging between 35 and 40 cents a pound. Tobacco sold as high as half dollar a pound, bringing to mind the fond memories of prices two decades ago.

Coupled with the price increase which was reported for nearly all grades and type, was an improved quality leaf. The offerings last Friday and yesterday included better quality tobaccos than on any previous days. Competition was unusually keen and nearly all grades were in greater demand than they were just a week or two ago. The non-descript or extremely sorry grades held to about the same low price levels.

The sale yesterday was described to be the most successful of the season. Just a few hundred pounds short of 200,000, the entire sale averaged \$21.89, exceeding by a few points the record of last Friday.

Total sales on the market to date stand at 3,984,366 pounds, the average being \$17.88. The market up until today had paid out \$712,755.65.

No prediction as to the goal the market will reach this season has been offered, but with the market gaining momentum from day to day, it is now apparent that the poundage record this year will compare favorably with the record figures of 1939, the crop reduction being considered. Quite a large number of farmers have completed the marketing of their crop, but there are fairly large quantities of the leaf still in the producers' hands.

Marketing activities have been slightly delayed in this immediate section during the past week or ten days on account of peanut harvesting and cotton picking. However, this week will see the last of the peanut crop stacked, and tobacco sales are certain to show substantial gains during the immediate future.

## Thousands Attended Church Association

The annual session of the Kehukee Primitive Baptist Association met with the church at Bear Grass, Martin County, October 5, 6 and 7th. The weather was ideal for the meeting and it was well attended, many coming from great distances to be present. Sunday, it was estimated there were three thousand people in attendance.

The sermons rang true to form and were thoroughly enjoyed by the large concourse of people during the three days of the meeting.

The people of Martin County know how to take care of these gatherings, and the three thousand people present on Sunday were amply accommodated at the tables on the grounds, where delicious food of almost every description was served in the true old Baptist style, which is hard to excel.

There were many visiting elders, many of whom preached interesting sermons from the pulpit erected under the towering pine trees on the grounds. The spirit of harmony and brotherly love prevailed on every side as it always does when old Baptists get together.

The church membership and friends throughout the community taxed their kitchens to capacity in successfully preparing for the throngs at the picnic Sunday.

The highway patrol rendered excellent service and no accident occurred to mar the occasion.

## E. A. Roberson Loses Life In Car Accident

### John T. Bland, Jr. Is Badly Injured In Friday Night Wreck

Ely Albert Roberson, Martin County farmer, was killed instantly and John Thomas Bland, Jr., a grandson of Reuben Bland, was badly injured in an automobile accident at Spring Green Church in Hamilton Township early last Friday evening. Roberson, suffering a skull fracture, a broken neck and possibly other injuries, died instantly. Thrown out of his old 1932 model car, Roberson landed several feet from the highway a puddle of blood forming around his head before his body could be moved to an undertaking establishment. Bland suffered a bad cut on his face, a badly bruised chest and possible rib fractures. If no complications result from the injury, Bland, about 19 years old, is expected to recover, according to a report coming from the Brown Com-

### Forty-Two Lose Drivers' Licenses In Asheboro

September was a bad month for drunken drivers in Randolph County, a report from the superior court in Asheboro stating that 42 drivers lost their licenses to operate motor vehicles during the term. All of them were charged with drunken driving, and one of the number was also charged with hit-and-run driving.

### NO ARRESTS

Strange as it may seem, the county jail received no customers last week-end after officers, including county and town and special, had made ready for a rushing business. Jailer Roy Peel held his watch with the keys ready until late that night. Twelve o'clock came and went and the first ripple on the crime front had not rippled. Officers' eyelids started hanging heavy, and one by one the watches of the night were deserted, peace and quiet descending upon the village more sparingly than usual.

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## Funeral Held For Accident Victim

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at the late home in Robersonville Township for Ely Albert Roberson, victim of an automobile accident at Spring Green Church last Friday evening. Interment was in the Bunting Cemetery in Robersonville Township, not far from the home.

About 52 years old, Mr. Roberson was the son of Outland and Betsy Ann Gurganus Roberson. In early manhood, he married Miss Maggie Bland, who survives with 11 children, Varina, Henry, Cecil, Silva, Velma, Garland, Clarice, Clayton, Linton and Dorothy.

He was a member of the Free Will Baptist Church at Bear Grass.