

## County Authorities Hold Brief Meeting Yesterday Morning

### Bids Asked For Construction Of Lunchroom and Shop At Jamesville

Although they were in session only a short time, the Martin County Commissioners handled their routine duties, received reports and petitions, heard delegations and disposed of other business before quitting their regular meeting here yesterday morning to meet as a board of equalization and review at 10 o'clock on Monday, March 18.

Tentative plans for the annual vaccination of all dogs in the county were advanced when Dr. M. A. Schooley of Williamston and Dr. R. G. Hicks of Robersonville were named to supervise the annual canine round-up in cooperation with Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel. Dates for the vaccinations are to be announced shortly.

After receiving the various departmental reports, the commissioners heard a special committee from the Kiwanis Club offer a plan calling for the construction of a "living" memorial for the heroes of World Wars I and II. The committee, including John L. Goff, N. C. Green and Sam D. Bundy, was advised that the proposal will receive due consideration, but no action could be expected immediately.

The commissioners, subject to approval by the State Board of Education, is to call a special election in Williamston School District for a 20-cent tax levy for the support of an expanded course of study.

The installation of coal stokers in the courthouse, county home and agricultural building was ordered. A contract, calling for an expenditure of \$940 for turn-key job, was let to J. C. Norris.

Unable to round up all the citizens drawn in February for the March term of superior court, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck asked that a second drawing be made. The additional group is to report on March 25 for jury duty along with the others who were found. Names of the last group called, follow, by townships: Jamesville, Jos. H. Holliday; Robersonville, H. L. Roberson, J. V. Andrews; Poplar Point, Mack Wynne; Hamilton, D. A. Knox; Williamston, A. M. Fussell.

Jury members were also drawn for duty during the two weeks term of superior court convening in April.

A few tax relief orders were issued, as follows:

For 1944 poll tax: Horace Duggins, Jamesville, physically disabled, and W. H. Leggett, Cross Roads, in army. James Dolberry of Goose Nest was relieved of taxes in the sum of \$4.19 for 1944 and \$4.04 for 1945, listed in error. Bell Lloyd of Williamston was relieved of the payment of \$3.15 taxes listed in error for 1945. Poll taxes for 1945 were cancelled, as follows: Labon Lilley, Griffins, physically disabled; Lewis Sheppard, Bear Grass, dead; James R. Bullock, and E. T. Monroe, both of Williamston, army.

Several requests for new and improved (Continued on page six)

## Use Discretion In Building On Roads

The State Highway and Public Works Commission is making an effort to anticipate the expense and trouble of clearing highway rights of way by asking prospective builders to consult highway engineers before erecting any structures adjacent to the highway system, Chairman A. H. Graham said recently.

An extensive highway program, including the construction of new state and county roads, as well as the widening and improvement of existing roads, will be started in the near future, he pointed out. The highway program, he feels, will be matched by corporations and other private concerns who are planning to build plants, utilities and other buildings along the highways.

The highway system's right-of-way is designed to give highway users sufficient sight distance to provide maximum safety, Graham said. This is particularly true at intersections of highways and at points where county roads enter the state highway system.

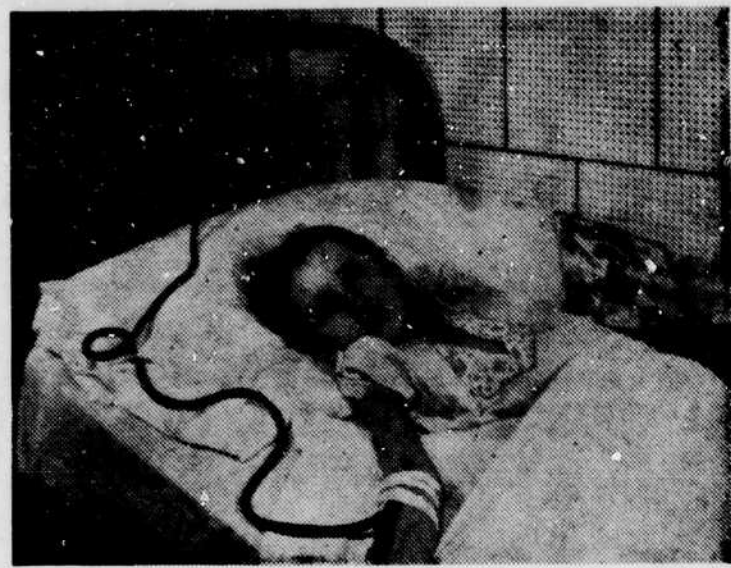
If the right-of-way has to be cleared, it involves expense that otherwise could be used in improving the road system, for money expended to clear a right-of-way reduces the actual amount that can be spent for highway construction and improvement.

Chairman Graham does not think that builders would obstruct the right-of-way arbitrarily. However, confusion sometimes arises in cases where the extent of the right-of-way is uncertain.

Thus, he said, the Commission is asking that a highway engineer or other responsible official be consulted by builders before they begin construction of buildings adjacent to the highway system. In this way, the

where no traffic hazard is created. Prompt and courteous attention was promised in each instance where prior notice is given of the planned erection of a building or utility near the highway system.

## Receives 141st Transfusion



Little Miss Peggy Harrison received her 141st blood transfusion in Brown's Community Hospital here last Sunday following an attack of influenza. She was given the transfusions by C. B. Bailey, of Bear Grass, and James

S. Ayers, Jr., local fireman, and was guest of the local Lions Club while in the hospital recovering from influenza and receiving the transfusions. She returned home yesterday. Photo by W. E. Saunders and printed through courtesy of News and Observer.

## Peanut Council Will Get Bureau's Support

### INCOME TAX HELP

Beginning next Monday, March 11, Deputy Collector E. Ross Fronberger of the North Carolina Department of Revenue will be in his office in the Martin County courthouse to assist state income taxpayers in preparing their income returns, it was announced this week. The collector will be in his office each day through Friday of next week.

The collector will also list intangible personal properties, such as money on hand, accounts receivable, notes, bonds, stock and other intangible properties held last December 31.

## Red Cross Drive Is Off To Good Start

Preliminary reports reaching here late yesterday indicated that the 1946 Red Cross fund drive was off to a splendid start in most, if not all, the districts in this county.

Several individual canvassers had completed their solicitations by noon, and most of them declared that all individual quotas were cheerfully met. One other solicitor was quoted as saying that only one lone individual quota was not met.

Drive Chairman V. J. Spivey stated that he had heard no definite reports except from one district, but that individual canvassers were quoted as saying that they were receiving a willing response and that possibly the drive would be completed in well over half the districts before the week-end, Bear Grass stating that the drive there would be completed possibly today.

The one and first complete report came from Biggs School where the \$40 quota was oversubscribed by about \$4.

Chairman Spivey is anxious to complete the drive for the \$3,600 in the chapter in as short a time as possible, and the cooperation of the public with the canvassers is again asked.

## Escaped Convict Arrested Sunday

Roosevelt Fagan, Martin County colored man who has specialized in thievery and larceny over a period of years, was arrested by Mecklenburg county officers near the South Carolina border last Sunday night, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck was advised yesterday.

Appearing in the courts of this county for the theft of an automobile and receiving stolen goods, Fagan was serving a term on the roads when he escaped a short time ago. He snifted his activities to the southwestern part of the State, successfully forged checks and was reported to have been riding in a stolen car when he was arrested.

Fagan had previously escaped from a highway prison camp.

### NO PLANS

While there has been some talk about it no definite plans have been advanced for establishing an alternate route for U. S. Highway No. 17 through here, according to information coming from a semi-official source this week.

It is believed that an alternate route will be either on Hatton W. Streets or through fields south of Williams Street. No surveys have been made of either route, it was learned.

## Tentative Plans Are Made For Barbecue To Be Held April 26

### President And Representatives Report On Recent Bureau Meetings in State

Meeting in the county courthouse last Friday evening, Martin County Farm Bureau members and directors discussed several vital issues, heard reports from representatives attending the state convention in Winston-Salem and those attending a session of the state directors in Raleigh a short time ago and made tentative plans for the annual barbecue and speaking on Friday, April 26.

Messrs. T. B. Brandon, Johnny Gurkin, H. U. Peel and Linwood Knowles were named to complete arrangements for the barbecue and invite a speaker to address the annual meeting next month.

The meeting unanimously agreed to contribute \$125 to the County fat stock show for prizes, the treasurer reporting \$1,058.61 in hand with all outstanding bills paid.

After representatives of the county organization had reported on the state meeting in Winston-Salem, the meeting discussed the peanut situation and heartily endorsed the work of the National Peanut Council, the group agreeing to make a direct appeal to all Martin County farmers, urging them to support the program next fall. It was pointed out that peanut production has been greatly increased during recent years, that something will have to be done to enlarge outlets if the markets are to be maintained at a fair level for the farmer. The National Peanut Council is carrying on an effective program, late reports declaring that research work is creating new outlets and that a national advertising program is expanding consumer outlets.

But, according to the records, peanut growers in this county are not supporting the council to any great extent. The cleaners, candy manufacturers and others are financing the work of the council, and since it means possibly more to the farmer than anyone else, the Farm Bureau agreed to work for the program on a larger scale this year. The meeting proposes to place the plan before every peanut grower in the county between now and next harvest season.

It was explained that the farmer is asked to contribute about a cent and one-half for each bag of peanuts marketed as his part in supporting the program.

Other reports from the state convention centered around various resolutions, the culture of corn and other timely farm topics, including discussions by farm, labor and industrial leaders.

County Bureau President Chas. L. Daniel placed before the meeting last Friday night two vital problems discussed at a meeting of the state directors in Raleigh a short time ago. Mr. Daniel pointed out that the state organization had a balance of about

(Continued on page six)

## Mayor Expecting To Return Home Tomorrow

Undergoing treatment for high blood pressure since Monday of last week, Mayor John L. Hassell is expecting to return home tomorrow, late reports stating that his condition continues to show improvement.

The regular meeting of the town commissioner last evening was postponed a second time by the mayor's absence. No date for the meeting was fixed. It was pointed out that the mayor had not missed a meeting of the board in fourteen years.

Very little business was on the calendar and none of it was urgent.

## Mrs. Addie Edwards Died In High Point Early Last Sunday

### Funeral Services Conducted At Home There Yesterday Afternoon

Mrs. Addie Edwards, a native of this county, died in a High Point hospital early last Sunday morning following a long period of declining health. Her condition was considered critical several weeks ago, but she showed marked improvement and was getting along very well until she suffered a relapse a short time before the end.

The daughter of the late John L. and Mary Hodges Ward, Mrs. Edwards was born in Bear Grass Township, 73 years ago. In early womanhood she was married to Emmett Edwards, for a number of years Williamston's chief of police. He died a number of years ago. During her residence here she was a faithful member of the Methodist church and is well remembered by many friends in this community.

In 1919 most of the family moved to High Point where her sons figured prominently in industry and in the civic and religious life of that section.

She was the last of the brothers and sisters, a sister, Mrs. Micajah Perry dying at her home on Beech Street in 1942.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at the home in High Point, and interment was in the family plot in Oakwood Cemetery there.

Surviving are two daughters, Miss Louise Edwards of High Point and Mrs. Janie Edwards Knox of Williamston; and three sons, E. Jack Edwards of Burlington, Ralph Edwards of Morganton, and W. W. Edwards of High Point.

## World Day Of Prayer In Church Here Friday

Religious leaders of the town and community are again calling the public's attention to the scheduled World Day of Prayer service in the Methodist church here Friday afternoon of this week at 4 o'clock. A timely program is being prepared, and large numbers are expected to attend and take part in the service which is part of a world-wide program.

## Two Road Accidents Reported In County

No one was hurt and no great property damage resulted in two minor road accidents in this county last week-end.

Nathaniel Stokes, Robersonville colored man, ran his ten-year-old Chevrolet into a cow at the main street-highway intersection in Gold Point last Saturday at 6:30 o'clock p. m., bruising the animal and doing about \$50 damage to his car. The ownership of the cow was not determined. Cpl. Bill Hunt, of the Highway Patrol, stating that Stokes successfully ran around one cow and struck the other one.

Fifteen minutes later, two cars, one driven by Hurford Smith of Oak City and the other by James Bishop of Scotland Neck, crashed at the intersection of Highways 44 and 125 in Oak City. No one was hurt, Cpl. Hunt, who investigated the accident, reported. Damage to each car was estimated at about \$150.

Bishop, charged with driving on the wrong side of the road, is booked for trial in the county court next Monday.

## Escaped Convict Is Captured In County

Jerry Hardenick, 28-year-old colored man, was returned to a Greene County prison camp yesterday afternoon following his arrest by Patrolman W. E. Saunders and prison camp officials. Sentenced to serve six months, the former local man escaped from the roads last Thursday and was captured in the home of a girl friend in Robersonville. One report stated that Hardenick could not get all of his six feet and four inches under the bed, that Patrolman Saunders saw the man's feet sticking out and pulled him from the inadequate hiding place.

Complaints were received by Williamston police officers earlier, declaring that the man had at least two wives in this county.

### OVER THE TOP

Assigned a quota of \$40 in the current Red Cross fund drive, the colored citizens in the little Biggs School Community went over the top with \$3.85 to spare, Principal W. V. Ormond announced yesterday. The district was the first in the chapter to reach and exceed its quota.

Commenting on the drive, Principal Ormond stated that \$30 was brought to the school by the children, "that the remainder came through solicitations and voluntary contributions. "We had a job to do and we did it," the school children were quoted as saying.

## County Commissioners Will Call Special Election For Local School

### Poplar Point Reports Slight Increase In Property Values

Poplar Point Township, the first of the ten districts in the county to complete its 1946 tax assessment work, reported a gain of slightly more than \$10,000 in its real and personal property values for the current year. County Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel said this week. Goose Nest is understood to have completed its list, but no official report on the trend in values there could be had immediately. When the list was in the making, the list-taker was quoted as saying that there were very few highs in his district and that the price bottom for automobiles had dropped out. It is fairly apparent that a reduction in values can be reasonably expected there.

A hurried review of the Poplar Point values shows that a major portion of the increase—about \$7,000—

was listed by the Virginia Electric and Power Company on lines constructed in that area during the last few months of 1945. A few new buildings and the purchase of a number of new tobacco oil curers accounted for most of the remainder of the gain. Other properties just about held their old values, the tax supervisor said.

The county commissioners are scheduled to sit as a board of equalization and review on March 18 and there is some doubt if all the list-takers will be able to complete their work and get their books before the authorities for a review at that time.

No preliminary reports relative to a trend in values has been received from other townships, but it is generally believed that the total for the county will show a slight decrease from the listings handled for 1945.

## Called For Keeping Sons Out Of School

### Sentenced To Roads, Defendant Tells Of Apparent Violations

### Stanley Ayers Pleads Own Case In Face Poor School Attendance Record

Stanley Ayers, Cross Roads farmer, was carried into the county court Monday for allegedly keeping two of his children out of school in violation of the compulsory attendance law. The farmer, pleading his own case and offering numerous excuses, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of the costs, and on the further condition that the defendant send his sons, Warren, 10, and Joe, 14, to school regularly.

During the trial the state proved that the younger son had attended only 36 days out of 125 during the 1945-46 term, that the other son had managed to get eighteen days' schooling so far during the current period. Very little evidence was offered by the state in its move to convict the defendant of what some term of flagrant violations of the compulsory attendance laws.

The case, it was reliably learned, marks the opening of a meaningful drive to enforce the school attendance laws in this county. It was reliably but unofficially learned that well over 100 children are being held out of school in this county, many of them in town where there are no farm chores to be handled. Briefs, it was learned, are being prepared in at least 100 cases, and court action is certain to follow if the flagrant violations of the school attendance laws are not checked immediately by parents and patrons.

Ayers, admitting that he had very little schooling, pleaded guilty, but asked for an opportunity to be heard. "I was taken sick Christmas eve with influenza," the defendant declared in offering excuses in his behalf. "Pleurisy developed, and then I had the mumps, and next, the children were sick. We were all bad off," he told the court.

As he continued his appeal to the court, Ayers plainly showed that he was more interested in how he was going to get his 40 acres of land planted and cultivated than he was in how he could keep his children in school. "The children are not in school today. They are plowing," Ayers explained when it was suggested that they could go to school during the remainder of the term. "How can I feed the children if I don't farm?" he asked the court.

After judgment was pronounced, Ayers, apparently not familiar with his oldest son's age, told the court that the lad was fifteen and asked if it would be all right to keep him at home. A check of the records showed that the boy will not be 15

(Continued on page six)

## Tells Friends He Will Be Candidate For Senate

While he has made no formal announcement, John Rodman, Washington attorney just recently returned from the armed services, told friends here this week that he plans to run for one of the two seats in this, the Second State Senatorial district.

Messrs. H. G. Horton, local attorney, and R. M. Hampton, state senator, formally announced their candidacy a short time ago. No activity on the political front in this county has been reported recently other than C. B. Martin's announcement for a seat in the State House of Representatives.

## Colored Delegation Appealing For High School In Oak City

### Group To Meet As A Board Of Equalization And Review March 18

A special election to determine the wishes of qualified voters on a proposal carrying a 20-cent tax for expanding the curriculum in the local schools was given official approval by the Martin County Commissioners in their regular meeting here yesterday. A registration will be called and other details handled at a special meeting here on Monday, March 18, according to information coming from the courthouse late yesterday. Action is being delayed pending approval or rejection of the proposed plan by the State Department of Education.

Commenting on the proposed plan for the local school district, representatives of the board of education explained that the Williamston local school committee, supported by a petition carrying a large number of names, made a request some weeks ago for the addition of several new courses, including music and physical education. The proposal was approved by the board of education members and was given recognition by the county commissioners at their meeting yesterday. Prior to the official action, school authorities had carried the proposal before various civic organizations who endorsed the program and pledged their support.

Once the proposal is approved by the State board, the county authorities will order a special registration and fix dates for the special election which possibly will be held in time for the matter to be considered when the new fiscal year budget is prepared.

Meeting in regular session Monday, the Martin County Board of Education received a delegation of 35 colored citizens from the Hamilton, Oak City, Salisbury, Whitchard-James and Jones School Districts. A formal appeal was made, requesting the board to consider the establishment of a high school in Oak City for the colored children in those districts. It was pointed out that there are 810 children enrolled in the elementary grades of the five schools, that the combined territory now has a potential high school enrollment of about 70 pupils, that no child in the district will be more than eight miles from the high school, and that 80 per cent of them will be within a radius of about five or six miles. At the present time, the high school in Parmele is serving that territory, but the arrangement was said to be not very satisfactory. The bus, operating on a 35-mile run or a round trip of 70 miles daily, is hauling from 10 to 50 pupils. Road conditions and uncertain bus schedules, it was explained, cause the wide fluctuations

(Continued on page six)

### PRESIDENT



Miss Louise Griffin, a senior in the local high school, was elected president of the north-eastern District of North Carolina Beta Clubs at a meeting held recently in Washington. Miss Griffin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Griffin, and possibly twenty others plan to represent the local schools at the State convention to be held in Winston-Salem the last three days of this week.

## Limited Patronage At Animal Clinics

Although nearly three hundred horses and mules, mostly mules, were treated, the animal clinics conducted in the county recently by veterinarians in cooperation with the farm agent's office did not measure up to expectations. Weather conditions were not at all favorable during most of the period, limiting patronage, it was explained.

The clinics were held at a very small cost of the farmers and much good was accomplished. Assistant County Agent C. J. Goodman commented.

During the past two weeks, 269 animals were examined, the veterinarians treating 279 of them. The teeth of 262 horses and mules were "floated."

## Local Firemen Answer Two Calls In Three Days

Local volunteer firemen answered two calls since last Saturday noon, but neither of the fires was of any consequence.

The firemen were called to the John Respass home on West Church Street last Saturday afternoon at 12:50 o'clock when a chimney caught fire. Very little damage resulted.

Yesterday afternoon at 12:45 o'clock, the firemen were called to a grass fire just off Railroad and Pearl Streets. No damage was done.

### ROUND-UP

After holding fairly steady for three weeks in a row, crime activities abated in this community last week-end when local and county and state officers arrested and jailed only six persons. The count had been even on each of three previous week-ends.

All six of the men arrested and jailed last week-end were booked for public drunkenness. Two of the six were white, and the ages of the group ranged from a low of 20 to 62 years.