

Reports Needs And Present Condition of The Various Schools

No Estimate Available On the Cost Of New Units In Proposed Program

At a virtual standstill for years, first on account of adverse financial conditions and then the war, an extensive building program during the next few years is urgently needed if the schools in this county are to maintain a progressive march, education authorities pointed out in a report submitted to the county commissioners recently.

At the present time, school finances are in splendid condition, but other obstacles such as high building costs and material shortages, present themselves. Just how the program can be adjusted to meet the adverse conditions is yet to be determined, but it is fairly certain that some action will be necessary if existing emergencies are to be relieved.

The report submitted this week reviews the conditions of the county's existing physical plant and outlines needs, many of them urgent, for the future. No detailed estimate on costs could be had immediately. The report reads, as follows:

White Schools
Jamesville. In 1944 the Board of Education purchased a house and lot for a teachers' home. The principal and the agriculture teacher live in this house. All except one of the teachers live in Jamesville, so the need has not been so great for a teacher's home. The County gets \$480.00 per year rent for this building. The request has been made by the Jamesville Board for the erection of a teachers' home and to leave the present building for the principal and vocational teacher. If this should be considered, there should be a building with about seven bedrooms. This building should produce in rent about \$1000.00 per year.

Farm Life. The Board of Education has in mind the erection of a lunchroom and a Home Economics Department in a new building. The Home Economics Department is fairly well housed at the present time in the basement. The teachers, so it is now serving as a lunchroom.

Bear Grass. The Board of Education has approved (though it has not officially been placed in the minutes) the erection of a lunchroom and a Home Economics building. Every available space is now being used and the indications are now that there will be an additional teacher in this school in 1946-47. This is one of the most necessary projects.

Williamston White Elementary School. This building needs a complete renovation on the inside. It was erected in 1917. While the walls are in good condition, the floor is severely worn and the plaster and ceiling are both in bad condition. The lunchroom is now housed in the basement. We want to take out some walls and put in some posts to support the floor and increase the size. This project was planned for this year, but neither labor nor materials were available.

Williamston High School. The Williamston High School presents a real problem. The building is now completely filled. There will be two additional state teachers next year, and as soon as agriculture teachers are available, the department should be added in the Williamston School. The lunchroom is now housed in the gymnasium and is a very poor makeshift. It seems that there would need to be built in Williamston a Home Economics and Agriculture building with a lunchroom and a band room. By moving the Home Economics department out of the present building will give two additional rooms. The need for a home for the principal is about as pressing as anything now. It seems that it might be logical to build a duplex apartment. This would be a self-liquidating project, and would not be a bad investment, especially since there is ample space.

Everetts. The Everetts School is in need of a lunchroom.

Robersonville Elementary School. A new boiler has been bought and a new heating system will be installed in this building this summer. A new roof will have to be put on this building before very long.

Robersonville High School. After study it appears that the need here is for the erection of a lunchroom, gymnasium, Home Economics Department, and a band room. For two years they have not had an Agriculture Department and the lunchroom has been housed in the Agriculture Building. By building a Home Economics Department in a new building, the normal needs at Robersonville will be taken care of for several years. A principal's home is needed also in Williamston.

Hamilton and Hassell. These schools are very well taken care of.

Kiwanians Turn Back Lions By Small Score
Playing a benefit game in the local gym last Monday, the Kiwanians turned back the Lions on the court by the small score of 17 to 15. The contest, interrupted often by substitutes going in to relieve the winded, was played before a large audience, the proceeds going to the scout building fund.

Competition Now Considered Likely In the County's Politics

After remaining unusually quiet during most of the pre-filing season, interest and activities in the forthcoming political primary are beginning to show added life. No official competition in the county political field has been created as yet, but a race is believed in the making, according to reliable reports reaching here this week.

Mentioned as a possible candidate for the State House of Representatives, Mr. A. Corey was quoted as saying Wednesday, "I am considering the matter and with suggestions and requests as they have been I feel that I shall file for the place of representative in the next session of the General Assembly." Mr. Corey, an experienced hand in legislative procedure and work, stated that he planned to make a decision within the next few days.

If Mr. Corey files for the position and there is a good possibility that he will, the first contest in strictly county politics will have been developed. Mr. C. B. Martin, former school man who continues in the armed forces but who is expecting his discharge shortly, announced for

the State House of Representatives several weeks ago.

County politics are slow in shaping up this season, and while no offices are likely to go begging, competition is almost certain to be limited. If there is to be any major contests, little advanced news has leaked out about them.

Time for filing is rapidly drawing to a close, and several offices still do not have announced candidates. Breaking the ice nearly two weeks ago, L. Bruce Wynne filed for clerk of superior court, and Chas. B. Roebuck announced for sheriff. J. Calvin Smith was next with his candidacy for judge of the county recorder's court, and he was followed by Paul D. Roberson for the solicitor's place. Last Monday the county commissioners filed in a group, including Messrs. R. L. Perry, Joshua C. Coltrain, John Henry Edwards, C. Abram Roberson and R. A. Halslip.

In the second state senatorial district, Hugh G. Horton, Roy Hampton and John Rodman have announced for the two seats, and in the First Congressional District Herbert C. Bonner, incumbent, and Robert Lee Humber are candidates.

Most Unusual Case Reported In County By Sheriff's Office

Wm. David Brown, Attired In Overcoat and Underwear, Enters Pulpit

One of the most unusual cases ever handled by the sheriff's department in this county was reported early this week. While it may have a pathetic touch, it certainly has a funny side. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck is really baffled because he can't decide whether the principal in the case is a law violator or a subject for the asylum for the insane. The man answers questions after a logical fashion, but his actions are a bit on the unbalanced side.

According to reports reaching here, William David Brown, 28-year-old colored man, went to church last Sunday morning near Hassell. That wasn't unusual, but he went attired in an overcoat, long-handled underwear, shoes and socks. His garb attracted attention, but the climax of his visit was not reached until he got up and declared that the minister was not half preaching, that he would take over in the pulpit. He was said to have laid the moral law down to the congregation during the greater part of an hour.

Brown's activities from that time until the next morning are not definitely known. It was said that during the meantime he had driven to Tarboro and deposited his pistol and part of a liquor still in Tarboro.

Riding horseback and carrying a five-gallon demi-john and still attired in overcoat, long drawers, shoes and socks, Brown approached Deputy Cedric Burroughs near the fire tower, not far from Hassell. "I'm taking this liquor and carrying it where the Lord told me to carry it," he explained. Not certain of his duties in the case, Deputy Burroughs talked with Brown and considered it advisable to hold him for the sheriff. Burroughs caught hold of the bridle. Brown reached forward, slipped the bridle off the horse's head, clucked to the animal and drove away, leaving the deputy holding to the empty bridle.

Brown dropped the five gallons of liquor and later fell off the horse. Taken into custody by Deputy Roy Peel later in the morning, Brown said that he had been converted, and carried the officer to the woods and showed him where a liquor plant had been wrecked and where the still, a steel drum, was buried.

When picked up by the officer, Brown offered no resistance but expressed disappointment when he could not deliver the liquor where the Lord had told him to carry it.

Brown, apparently in good health, worked steadily on the farm, and was getting along all right up until Sunday. He had been called to Army centers several times but was rejected each time. Members of his family, visiting him in jail this week, maintained he had been converted, that they knew someone who could lift the spell. During the meantime, the sheriff's office is going ahead with plans to have the man admitted to an institution. Brown, insisting that his name is "David, Play On Your Harp," is taking his confinement in different moods. One day he flooded his cell by pranking with the water lines, and Wednesday he marched around his cell attired only in a cap.

Twenty County Men Are Called Monday To Service Center

Eighteen Report For Their Preinduction Examinations At Fort Bragg

Holding to an unusually low figure for months, the size of draft calls has been materially increased, the Martin County Draft Board announcing this week that twenty young colored men were called Monday for pre-induction examinations at Fort Bragg. Eighteen answered the call. Herman Ellis Page, it was learned, beat the draft by volunteering for service a short time ago, and no word has been received from John Alfred James who did not report last Monday.

Fourteen of the twenty called are just eighteen years old, the ages of the six others ranging up to 23 years. Eleven of the twenty were called from the farm.

Names of the men called for pre-induction examinations and their addresses:

- George Redford Shaw, Williams-ton.
- Charlie Oscar James, RFD 1, Hobgood.
- Ora Station, Hamilton.
- James Arthur Blount, Jamesville and RFD 1, Plymouth.
- John Henry Bryant, Oak City.
- Joseph Bellamy, Robersonville.
- L. V. Taylor, RFD 3, Williamston.
- William Grimes, RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Essix Wilson, Williamston.
- Charley Augustus Bennett, Jr., RFD 2, Robersonville.
- Herman Ellis Page, Parmele and Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
- John Alfred James, Parmele.

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REGISTRATION

Registration books for the special school election to be held on May 4 will open in Williamston's two precincts Saturday and will remain open each Saturday until 6 p. m., April 20.

All those citizens wishing to advance the cause of education in the Williamston Schools will find it necessary to register to participate in the election. Those living on the south side of the town's main street and highway 64 to Beaver Dam Swamp, including within the school district boundary in Bear Grass and Williams Townships will register at the Williamston Motor Company. Those living on the north side of the town's main street and Highway 64 to Beaver Dam Swamp will register at Harrison and Carstarphen's insurance office.

Governor Of State Urges Citizens To Aid Cancer Drive

Martin County Is Being Asked To Raise \$1,000 In Nationwide Fund Drive

Governor R. Gregg Chery called upon all citizens of the state to support the humanitarian work of the North Carolina Division of the Field Army of the American Cancer Society in a proclamation making April cancer control month in North Carolina.

Governor Chery issued his proclamation this week and read it on a program broadcast over every radio station in the state. The radio broadcast opened with a talk by Mrs. George E. Marshall, of Mount Airy, commander of the North Carolina Division. The chief executive was introduced by John Kerr, Jr., of Warren, state campaign chairman for the drive in which \$167,880 is being sought in North Carolina for the fight on cancer.

The proclamation issued by Governor Chery is as follows: "Whereas, cancer is the most feared of all diseases and its control is a great public health problem which the Congress of the United States has recognized in a special act by designating the month of April as Cancer Control Month, and the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina has, by similar action, so designated the month of April, and whereas, cancer killed 607,000 American citizens on the home front between Pearl Harbor and V-J Day—more than twice as many as were slain on the battle fronts by our Japanese and German enemies, and whereas, cancer deaths in 1945 in North Carolina reached the all-time high total of 2,421, and whereas, cancer takes its greatest toll among those who are at the height of their usefulness to themselves, their families, and their communities, but spares no age, not even the little child nor the very old, and whereas, from one-third to one-half of all cancer deaths are needless, even if no other medical discovery is even made about this disease, and whereas, co-ordinated and adequately financed research offers hope

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Governor Proclaims Army Day In State

Governor R. Gregg Chery has called on the people of North Carolina to celebrate Army Day, April 6. In a proclamation issued from the capitol Governor Chery pointed out the fact that "This is the first time since the cessation of hostilities that full honor can be done in recognition of the glorious fealty, faith and loyalty of the men and women of our Army."

The Governor called upon the people of North Carolina to "Make this day memorable by wholeheartedly entering into the ceremonies and celebration, thus paying tribute to the great accomplishments of our Army, and thereby honoring the veterans of World War I and World War II."

President Truman, in a previously issued proclamation, had invited the governors of each state to issue proclamations calling for the observance of Army Day.

In response to the call from the governor, civic organizations throughout the state have, in cooperation with Military Installations, arranged for parades, displays of equipment, banquets and speeches honoring those who have served and are serving with the Army.

Church Group To Meet In Goldsboro Next Tuesday

The Albemarle Presbyterian will meet in the First Presbyterian Church at Goldsboro next Tuesday and Wednesday, it was announced this week by Mrs. J. M. Hobgood, president of Farnville.

Mrs. Geo. Bacon of Raleigh, Miss Lucy Steel of Peace Institute and Miss Ada McMurphy of Wilmington will have parts on the program.

The several churches in this county will be represented.

Fines Amounting To \$515 Collected In The County's Court

One Defendant Draws Eighteen Months On Roads For Alleged Larceny

Presiding over his first session of the Martin County Recorder's Court following his appointment earlier in the day as vice recorder, Judge Robt. L. Coburn, Williamston attorney, called twenty cases for trial last Monday. After clearing the docket set for the day, the court recessed at 1:30 o'clock until next Monday, leaving between seventy and eighty cases for trial. Solicitor Paul D. Roberson prosecuted the docket before a fairly large audience.

Judge Coburn did little compromising when it came to liquor law violations, and he imposed one of the heaviest sentences in the recorder's book in a case charging a defendant with larceny and receiving. Several defendants left the courtroom with suspended sentences dangling over their heads, and a \$100 fine was imposed in one case. Fines, imposed and collected, amounted to \$515, the costs boosting that figure by several hundred dollars.

Proceedings: His case coming before the court for further judgment, Ernest Bellamy, charged with bastardy, was directed to pay \$5 a week for the benefit of his illegitimate child, and reappear for further judgment in April of next year.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving, Willie Mack Bryant was fined \$50, taxed with the costs and had his driver's license revoked for one year.

In the case charging Walter Godard (col.) with non-support, a nol pro was taken as to non-support of his wife, and the defendant pleaded guilty of failing to provide adequate support of his children. He was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the sentence upon the payment of \$25 a month to the county welfare department for the benefit of his children. He is to reappear for further judgment in April of next year.

Pleading nolo contendere in the case charging him with drunken driving, James Dupree Bishop was adjudged guilty of operating a motor vehicle on the wrong side of the road. Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the court costs. Judgment was suspended in the case charging Johnnie Lee Bowers with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Roy Lanier, charged with attempted assault, failed to answer when called and papers were issued calling for his arrest.

Leamon Sherrad, pleading guilty in the case charging him with an assault, was fined \$50 and required to pay the costs.

Alton Raynor, charged with drunken driving, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for six months. The court suspended the road term upon the payment of a \$100 fine and costs and on the further condition that the defendant is not convicted of any violation of the criminal laws in this state during the sentence suspension period. His license to operate a motor vehicle was revoked for one year.

Jake C. Downs, pleading guilty of public drunkenness, was fined \$25 and taxed with the court costs.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Rufus Clarence Jernigan was fined \$50, taxed with the costs and had his driver's license revoked for one year.

Johnnie H. James was fined \$15 and required to pay the costs in the case charging him with drunken driving.

Charged with drunken driving, William Abraham Pitt pleaded guilty and was fined \$50, required to pay the court costs and had his operator's license revoked for one year.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the case charging William Preston Lanier with violating the operator's license law.

Charged with non-support, Cleveland Godard pleaded not guilty and the case was continued for judgment until May 6.

Claude Worsley, pleading not guilty in the case charging him with non-support, was adjudged guilty.

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SELF-SERVICE

Opening the first self-service store in this section, Pender's did a whale of a rushing business here yesterday, and there continues a flourishing business today.

Patrons, visiting a self-service store for the first time, were quick to learn the plan of procedure. There were a few hitches the first day, but despite them a greater volume of business was handled and considerably quicker than it would have been possible with the customers depending on clerks.

The store featured quite a number of the scarce items, and despite the crowds, shelves were replenished from time to time.

Willis H. Burden Died In Hospital Early On Tuesday

Funeral For Retired Building Contractor Held At Home On Marshall Avenue

Willis H. Burden, retired building contractor who had made his home here with a daughter, Mrs. John Wier, on Marshall Avenue for a number of years, died in the local hospital last Tuesday morning at 8:20 o'clock. He had been in declining health for a number of years and his condition was serious for several weeks. Fairly active for his advanced age, Mr. Burden was injured when struck by a truck here on Main Street several years ago and he never experienced very good health since that time.

Mr. Burden was born in Elberton, Georgia, on February 18, 1866, the son of the late John W. and Nancy Edwards Burden. After spending his early life there, he located in Orangeburg, South Carolina, and engaged in the building industry for many years. On January 18, 1896, he was married to Miss Mary Ella Sineath of St. Matthews, South Carolina. Following his retirement about nine years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Burden came to Williamston to make their home with their daughter, Mrs. Burden dying five years ago.

During his residence here Mr. Burden made many friends in the community. Quiet-mannered, he had a knack of seeing the good in his fellowman and overlooking the bad.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. John Wier, of Williamston, and Mrs. M. B. Smith, of Columbia, South Carolina; two grandsons, John Wier, Jr., of Williamston, and Billy Smith, Jr., of Columbia.

Funeral services were conducted from the home Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock by Rev. B. T. Hurley, local Methodist minister and the family pastor. Interment was in the family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

Mrs. Ida Roberson Dies In Bear Grass

Mrs. Ida Roberson died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lenwood Pierce, in Bear Grass Township last Monday evening at 8:45 o'clock following a long period of declining health. She was 74 years old.

Mrs. Roberson, the daughter of the late John Henry and Mary Ann Taylor Webb, was born in Bear Grass and lived all her life here.

In early womanhood she was married to Joshua Roberson who died some years ago.

Besides her daughter she is survived by a sister, Mrs. Della Biggs, of this county.

Funeral services were conducted at her daughter's home Tuesday afternoon by Elder A. B. Ayers and burial was in the family cemetery on the Oscar Peel farm in Bear Grass Township.

Twenty-five County Men Leave For Fort Bragg on Wednesday

Group Of Colored Draftees Are Called For Final Induction In Services

Twenty-seven Martin County colored men were called recently to report to Fort Bragg last Wednesday for final induction. Twenty-five answered the call. One, Samuel Ellis Smallwood, of RFD 1, Williamston and Baltimore, was transferred to Baltimore, and another, Charlie Alfred Williams, of Williamston and Norfolk, failed to report.

The call was one of the largest received for colored men in this county in many months. However, no colored men were inducted into the services from this county last month.

Sixteen of those called came from the farm, and thirteen of the twenty-seven are nineteen years old or older, the ages ranging up to 25 years.

Names and addresses of the men answering the call:

- Henry Davis Clemmons, RFD 3, Williamston.
- James Henry Lambson, Williams-ton and Newport News, Va.
- Willie Jasper Jones, RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Eddie Mack Briley, RFD 1, Robersonville and Portsmouth.
- Clarence Purvis, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Willie David Boston, Jr., RFD 1, Jamesville.
- Jim Junior Outerbridge, RFD 3, Williamston.
- James Edward Teel, RFD 1, Robersonville and Norfolk.
- Melvin Langley, Robersonville.
- John D. Griffin, RFD 3, Williams-ton.
- Lester Carr, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Wiley Theodore Williams, Oak City.
- James Edward Williams, Williams-ton.
- James Dennis Williams, RFD 1, Williamston.

Report Increase In Sale Of Auto Tags

While the sale of 1946 state license tags to new car owners has been limited to about a dozen since the first of the year, former residents returning from the defense centers continue to boost the sale of the plates, in general, W. H. Carstarphen, manager of the license bureau maintained here by the Carolina Motor Club, announced this week.

So far, the bureau has sold 6,136 tags to vehicle owners in this section as compared with 6,088 sold in the corresponding period for 1945.

A quarterly reduction in the price of tags is now in effect and sales are expected to show a further increase, it was announced.

Reports covering all license and title transactions throughout North Carolina show greatly increased activity, with every indication being that automobile travel will surpass that of 1941, formerly a peak year. Late March figures, obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh, put the sale of North Carolina tags at 646,271 by the end of March, well above the 1945 March total of 609,709, and far ahead of the 591,081 for 1941.

College Glee Club To Present Program Sunday

Appearing in the Christian Church here Sunday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock, the Atlantic Christian College Glee Club will offer a varied program, Assistant Organist Russell T. Roebuck for the church, announced today. The program includes numbers by a mixed chorus, girls' glee club, male quartet and several solos.

The public is cordially invited to hear the program.

Albemarle Union To Meet In Washington Saturday

A meeting of the Albemarle Union (disciples of Christ) will meet in the First Christian Church, Washington, tomorrow morning at 10:30 o'clock with Rev. John L. Goff, president, presiding.

All churches in the district are invited to send representatives to the meeting which will feature an interesting program. A good number of representatives will attend from the local church, it was announced.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Accidents continue to climb in this county, latest reports placing the county at an all-time high of 42 for the first thirteen weeks of the current year. It is good that most of the highway accidents have been of a minor nature, but even then three lives have been lost and twenty-five persons have been injured, one or two permanently. A little accident wave struck Robersonville last week-end, but the three accidents there cause no injuries and limited property damage. Martin citizens figured in two accidents outside the county during the period.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

Thirteenth Week			
Accidents Inj'd	Killed	Damage	
1946 - 4	0	1	\$ 600
1945 - 1	0	0	200
Comparisons To Date			
1946 - 42	25	3	10,400
1945 - 17	6	0	5,150