

## Damage Suit Asks \$50,000 Result Of Highway Accident

Filed In Beaufort County By Administrator of Late Clyde T. Paul

A \$50,000 damage suit was filed in the Beaufort County Superior Court last week as a result of the motorcycle - automobile accident on the Washington Highway near here on June 1 which cost Clyde T. Paul, young merchant seaman, his life.

Brought by William Haulsey Snell, administrator, against Dallas Taylor, driver, and L. G. Leggett, owner of the car figuring in the fatal accident, the damage suit, alleged, in part:

"... That on the night of June 1, 1946, at about the hours between 8 p. m. and 8:30 p. m., ... plaintiff intestate, who was a member of the Merchant Marine, and had recently returned to the United States from Foreign Service, was traveling toward his home in South Creek, N. C., on a motorcycle, and was riding on Highway No. 17, between Williamston and Washington, going in a direction of Washington, and that at said time plaintiff intestate was riding said motorcycle in a careful and prudent manner, and at a lawful rate of speed not exceeding 50 miles per hour, and was keeping a proper lookout, and was operating said motorcycle on his, the right side of the road, with proper brakes and lights, and at a point 2 1/2 miles south of Williamston, on said highway, plaintiff intestate collided with an automobile being driven by the defendants, at which time plaintiff intestate was killed. That at the time of the accident, the defendant Dallas Taylor was operating the automobile of L. G. Leggett, it being a Plymouth 2-door sedan, and the said L. G. Leggett was riding as a passenger."

The complaint further reads: "That immediately preceding the accident, the defendants were operating said automobile in a northern direction and were operating said automobile in an unlawful manner, at a greater rate of speed than allowed by law, in a reckless and careless manner, and without keeping a proper lookout, the defendants operating said automobile, with improper brakes and improper lights, all of which were known to both defendants, and that a short time before the accident, the highway patrolman signalled the defendants to stop due to improper lights, at which time the defendants applied brakes and due to negligence in the operation of said car which was gross and due to faulty brakes, the defendants swerved to the left of the center of the highway about two feet, and came to a stop choking the motor, and thereupon extinguished the lights and attempted to start the car, at which time, the motorcycle of plaintiff intestate struck the left front fender of the car. That said accident was due in no way to any carelessness or recklessness on the part of plaintiff."

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## Water Tank Blows Up In Oak City

A small water tank blew up at Jimmy Council's barbershop in Oak City last week-end, injuring no one and causing only limited property damage.

Hooked to a small cold water system, the tank apparently got too much air in it, tearing from its three-pipe connection mooring and landing on a roof eighteen or twenty feet high, reports reaching here were declared.

Many hot water tanks are known to have blown up, but the one in Oak City is the first cold water tank to go on a rampage in this section, as far as it could be learned.

## Jamesville Girl Gets Diploma At Meredith

Miss Frances Wallace, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wallace of Jamesville, was graduated with the 1946 Meredith College Class, the Raleigh institution announcing that Miss Wallace received the cum laude along with thirteen of the other ninety graduates.

## Victim of an Unusual Disease Died Sunday

PRESIDENT



Ernest Mears, popular manager of the Belk-Tyler store here, was recently installed as president of the Williamston Junior Chamber of Commerce, succeeding Attorney Clarence W. Griffin.

## Critically Injured In Mill Accident Here Early Today

Bernice Crawford Loses His Right Leg and Suffers Other Injuries

Bernice Crawford, 28-year-old white employe of the Wells-Oates Lumber Company on East Main Street, was critically injured at 7:00 o'clock this morning when his right leg was caught between two belt pulleys at the company's plant.

An oiler in the engine room, Crawford started to replace a belt that had run off a pulley. He kicked at the belt and missed, his leg jamming between two pulleys with a clearance of hardly two inches. The limb was fed in between the pulleys up to the body and before the engine could be stopped, the pulley wore its way to the hollow of his stomach, according to information coming from one of the man's fellow workers. The leg was crushed and badly mangled.

Mill workers found it necessary to dismantle part of the machinery to release the man. Doctors were called and they gave him an injection while he was held fast in the machine. He was removed to a Washington hospital where late reports described his condition as grave.

Crawford, formerly of Greenville, came to the plant here about a month ago. Formerly known as the Saunders and Cox mill, the plant was recently bought by the Wells-Oates Lumber Company.

Operations were interrupted for more than an hour while workers replaced the dismantled machinery.

The accident was the first serious one reported at the mill in many months, and the first since the new owners took over operations.

## Two Cars Crash On U. S. Highway 64

No one was hurt but considerable property damage resulted when two cars crashed on U. S. Highway 64 at Holly Springs Church in Williams Township at 12:25 o'clock Monday morning.

Damage to the two cars figuring in the accident was estimated at \$350 by Patrolman W. E. Saunders who made the investigation.

Driving a 1939 Chevrolet James Harrell Ellis, RFD 1, Williamston, started to make a left-hand turn at the church when James LeRoy Williams of Jamesville started to pass and crashed into the side of the Chevrolet with his 1940 Buick roadster.

After a wild rampage on the highways the week before when one person lost his life and several others were injured, some seriously, motorists on the county highways slowed down a bit, and only one accident was reported last week-end.

## Last Rites Today In Bear Grass For Peggy L. Harrison

Little Girl Had Received 153 Transfusions In Past Six Years

Little Miss Peggy Harrison, victim of a rare disease, died in Duke Hospital last Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock after bravely fighting for life over a period of six years. Faithfully maintaining a watch over her daughter, Mrs. Harrison said that she was rubbing the little girl's head, that two minutes before the end Peggy said she was sleepy. Little Peggy closed her eyes and death, after threatening so many times, came peacefully.

Suffering from some type of anemia which doctors never definitely diagnosed, the little girl made one of the greatest fights for life possibly ever recorded in the annals of medicine in this section. Despite her frail little body, she willed to live and more than once it was her indomitable spirit that delayed the end. Time and the ravages of disease proved too great, however, and death moved in while she slept, ending a long period of suffering.

Apparently enjoying normal health through her third year, the little girl appeared not to be getting along very well in the spring of 1940. In September of that year she was removed to Duke Hospital and during the course of two weeks she received seven blood transfusions. Her condition was greatly improved, but by the following February one of the two types of corpuscles apparently had destroyed the other type and she entered Brown's Community Hospital here for treatment. From that time up until a little over seven weeks ago she received at more or less regular intervals 135 blood transfusions. A source of blood was made available by neighbors and other friends, including Williamston's volunteer fire department, the Lions club and others. Following each transfusion, Little Peggy would show greater interest in life, and when she entered school she was bright as she could be until almost time for another transfusion. Despite her physical handicap she made her grade each year in the Bear Grass School until this year when she was forced out of school for weeks. She had spent seven weeks in Duke on her last visit here.

In addition to the blood transfusions, Peggy received at regular intervals doses of insulin. In all her trials and suffering she never complained, her bright eyes humbly expressing sincere appreciation for the opportunity to live in the face of handicaps. Her quiet disposition made her a welcome patient in the hospital, and she made many friends during her visits there. In school she was a favorite among her playmates. The daughter of Ephraim C. and Mrs. Maggie Wynne Harrison, she was born in Bear Grass Township on January 22, 1937. Surviving besides her parents are four brothers, Sgt. Levi Harrison who is now with the Army in France; Eli D. Harrison, just recently out of the U. S. Navy; Alfred and Billy Harrison, and two sisters, Nancy and Diana, all of the home.

Funeral services are being conducted in the Primitive Baptist Church in Bear Grass Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock by Elders B. S. Cowin and A. B. Ayers. Interment will follow in the family cemetery near the home.

## Return From 4-H Camp In Virginia Saturday

Ninety-one Martin County 4-H club members and their leaders returned last Saturday from an encampment at Jamestown, Virginia, the group reporting a very enjoyable trip. They were accompanied by Misses Garnette Crocker and Elizabeth Parker, Mr. L. W. Cone of the extension service in this county, and Mrs. R. C. Pearce, of Greenville, former Martin home agent.

## Hamilton Theater To Have Elaborate Event Wednesday

Big Barbecue To Be Served; Modern Theater Built At Cost of \$36,000

A new and ultra modern theater costing approximately \$36,000 will have its formal opening Wednesday morning at 10:00 o'clock, the program for the day including a free barbecue at 1:00 o'clock and a baseball game that afternoon. Construction work on the theater is being rushed to completion and installation of the latest projection and sound equipment is being handled by specialists, Mr. Henry S. Johnson, Sr., speaking for the owners, explaining that everything will be made ready for the gala opening at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Designed to meet a great need in that section's entertainment field, the theater was planned and financed by seventeen stockholders, Messrs. Roy and W. J. Beach, Geo. Haislip, George Oglesby, William H. Peel, F. L. Haislip, Jr., W. C. Haislip, W. H. Foreman, D. G. Matthews, H. S. Johnson, senior and junior, R. A. Haislip, W. C. House, L. D. Roebuck, P. E. Manning, L. R. Everett and Steve Scott. Construction work, handled by Contractors Gurkin and Brock, was started last March and rushed to completion. Mr. D. G. Matthews heads the new enterprise as president; Henry S. Johnson, Jr., as treasurer, and Clayton House, manager. C. B. Roebuck, war veteran, who has taken special training, will operate the theater and assist in its management.

Of brick construction, the building has a seating capacity of 433, including 175 seats in the balcony. The projection and sound equipment, made by RCA, is the most modern to be had, the owners sparing no expense in providing the theater's patrons the greatest comfort and best in equipment and pictures. The building is equipped with an air conditioning system.

Assured the support and good will of the entire community, the theater will hold its formal opening with the people there participating in the elaborate program. Twenty-two pigs, many of them donated, are being prepared by Mr. R. A. Edmondson for the big free barbecue dinner which will be served at 1:00 o'clock. The ladies of the town are preparing approximately 400 pounds of slaw and several bushels of meal, making the event a cooperative affair. Special and general invitations have been issued, and the town is expecting guests by the tens of hundreds during the day.

A schedule of operations has not been released, but according to present plans, matinees will be held at least twice each week with shows every night, including Sunday.

In addition to the theater building itself, the stockholders provided for a doctor's office on the ground floor and a three-room apartment upstairs which will serve either as living quarters or as a beauty parlor.

The project is recognized as a timely advance in the town's (Continued on page six)

## Undergoing Operation Result Of Accident

Injured in a wagon-automobile accident near Dardens on Easter Monday, Mr. Mack Davis is in a Durham hospital this week for an eye operation.

## VACCINATIONS

After vaccinating approximately 6,800 persons or about one out of every four in the county in the drive against typhoid fever, the county health department personnel is now in the last week of its annual campaign.

After this week there will be no special appointments and immunization will be offered at the established clinics in Robersonville each Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 3 o'clock, in Hamilton each Friday afternoon from 1 to 3 o'clock and each Saturday morning in the department headquarters in the town hall, Williamston.

## Town Switching To New Water Supply At Skewarkey Stations

## Calls for Ambulance, Rides To Jail In Patrolman's Car

After making arrests for various types of drunken driving, Cpl. W. T. Simpson of the State Highway Patrol branched out a bit last Friday evening when he arrested and jailed a man for allegedly driving while in an intoxicated condition a motor scooter. But that was not all there was to it. The man, John Mitchell Bell, 26, of Washington, was scooting along toward home when he lost control of the contraption and fell off at Corey's Cross Roads on Highway N. 17. Finding him in a limp condition and apparently unconscious, residents there thought he was badly hurt and they called a Biggs ambulance. Before the ambulance could be driven to the scene, Bell recovered, partially at least, and a trip to the hospital was ruled out, leaving S. Romulus Biggs holding again the proverbial bag. During the meantime, the highway patrol picked up the call and Cpl. Simpson reported. After questioning Bell, the patrolman explained that he would take him to the "hospital", and after making certain the man was not hurt the officer placed him in jail.

Appraising Bell's condition earlier that day, a friend whose name could not be learned, insisted on taking Bell to his home. Bell was said to have insisted on making the trip himself with the friend off as a passenger. The friend fell off, jumped off or was knocked off the scooter near the Sunny Side Inn, suffering a few minor bruises. Bell made it as far as the Cross Roads.

It was reported that Bell was to report to Fort Bragg this week for his fifth pre-induction examination. He left instruction with his bondsman that in case he passed, to plead him guilty and pay the fine and costs.

## Issue Twenty-Four Marriage Licenses In County In May

Twenty-four marriage licenses were issued in this county last month, the issuance equalling the record number reported in the month of May, 1942. So far this year 156 marriage licenses have been issued in this county as compared with 89 issued in the first five months of 1945.

Licenses were issued by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger in this county last month, ten to white and fourteen to colored couples, as follows:

**White**  
Robert Franklin Gurganus of Williamston and Dorothy Mae Haislip of Everetts.

Clyde A. Glass of Jamesville and Evelyn R. Wynn of Williams-ton.

Shem L. Lewis of Bethel and Corinne E. Link of Aurora.

Johnnie Wilson Rogerson and Mary Elizabeth Ausbon, both of Williamston.

Kader E. Gardner and Mina Lendorf Gibson, both of Williams-ton.

Reuben Leland Bailey, Jr., of Rocky Mount and Alma Louise Jones of Williamston.

Zeno H. Rose, Jr., of Williams-ton and Nolie Keel Highsmith of Robersonville.

George W. Revels and Ruby Dell Beach, both of Williamston.

Francis R. Bourque and Farese Manning, both of Newport News.

Clarence Hunt of Plymouth and Mary Louise Cherry of Williams-ton.

**Colored**  
Willie E. Bunn and Vernell Andrews, both of Robersonville.

James Russell Clemmons and Leadie Mae Brady, both of Robersonville.

John W. Andrews and Essie Doggett, both of Robersonville.

James Lee Perkins and Elizabeth Wiggins, both of RFD 1, Oak City.

Charles Hill and Martha Gee, both of Jamesville.

James R. Biggs and Lizzie Mae Yarrall, both of Williamston.

John Edwards, Jr., and Mary Lou Wilkins, both of Williamston.

Rufus Lynch, Jr., of Oak City and Lorene Jolly of Parmele.

Herman Frederick Slade and Fionnie Bell Lee, both of Williamston.

John Henry Sanders and Joanne Sanders, both of Williamston. (Continued on page six)

## Two Marriage Licenses Are Issued In County

Two marriage licenses were issued by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger in this county last week-end to:

Aaron Brown of Greenville and Dilly Biggs, RFD 5, Greenville.

Paul Winfred Melson of Williamston and Margie Ellen Wayne of New Bern.

## Plan To Virtually Close Courthouse Pumping Station

## Engineers Fairly Certain That Town's Source of Water To Meet Needs

Writing off its courthouse pumping station at a virtual loss of approximately \$13,000, the town this week is switching to a new water supply at Skewarkey where the salt content, according to repeated chemical tests, is right next to zero.

Under construction since last fall, the new pumping stations are gradually being hooked into the town's water system, R. E. Manning, superintendent of the water department, stating that the first pumping unit is being placed in operation today. The second will be placed in operation possibly by the latter part of this week when automatic pumping controls are to be installed.

Constructed at a cost of \$13,990, plus one-quarter of one percent for each gallon the wells produce per minute in excess of 300 and up to 400, the two wells are each 360 feet deep and approximately 800 feet apart. They are located just off Highway 17, northwest of Skewarkey church. After the white settlers came, the town was moved from Skewarkey nearer the river. Now the town is going back to the former site for its water.

The contractors, the Layne-Atlantic Company, are guaranteeing 300 gallons per minute, but the first tests placed production right at 350. Repeated chemical tests place the salt content at seven parts in a million as compared with 370 to 420 parts per million pumped from the well near the county courthouse. The increasing salt content found in the water pumped from the court-house well made a change imperative. Unable to supply the town from the original wells at the old plant on Sycamore Street, new wells were considered several years ago, but no contracts could be let until after the war.

Very little change in the chemical analysis will be noted in the new water supply other than the reduction in the salt content. Tests show that the water is equally as soft as that being used now, and that the other chemical properties are about the same.

Calling in state and federal geologists before locating the new wells at Skewarkey, town authorities were advised that the well at the courthouse finally sucked a vein into a salt supply trapped there when the sea covered this part of the earth in some prehistoric age. While the courthouse well will be virtually abandoned, it will be held in reserve to meet any emergency.

With the problem surrounding the water supply solved, the town authorities are expected to consider plans for increasing the storage capacity. The present tower is in bad condition and its capacity is far from adequate to meet the growing demands. The old system even with the pumping stations running full blast could barely support the demand (Continued on page six)

## Freak Hail Storm Reported Sunday

Limited damage was done to crops, especially tobacco, in scattered sections of the county late last Sunday evening by a freak hail storm. Farmer Henry Early and the Smith brothers in Goose Nest Township reported hail damage, and several farmers in the No. 90 community of Williams Township suffered losses to their tobacco in the storm, it was learned here. Small hail stones fell in several other areas but the damage was only minor, according to reports reaching here.

Up until late Monday, approximately one dozen claims for insurance had been filed with insurance agents here as a result of the storm.

Less than one-half inch of rain was reported locally, but in some sections farmers said the land was too wet for plowing yesterday morning. In other areas no rain fell at all, and the land is drying rapidly in Griffins and parts of Bear Grass and one or two other districts in the county.

Rainfall in this area last month was the second largest reported for any May in this section in fifteen years, the precipitation—5.82 inches—falling 1.16 inches below the record reported in May, 1938. So far this month 1.37 inches of rain has been recorded in this county.

## Ill At Home Of Her Daughter In Durham

Taken ill while visiting in Durham, Mrs. Hattie Harrison, is confined to her bed in the home of her daughter, Miss Evelyn Harrison, there. Her condition was reported slightly improved over the week-end and she hopes to return to her home here in the near future.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Harrison were in Durham Sunday and found her resting very comfortably at that time.

## Continues Ill At The Home Of Her Son Here

Mrs. Arah Cobb, experiencing declining health for some time, continues quite feeble at the home of her son, Dillon Cobb, on Marshall Avenue here.

## Several Hundred Dollars Added To Fund For Hungry

To Complete Canvass In The Business Area This Week, Chairman Says

Raising \$409.11 last week-end, the Food Collection Drive now stands at \$857.12. H. P. Mobley, chairman of the special Lions Club Committee handling the canvass in the name of starving humanity overseas, announced Monday afternoon. No goal has been set for the drive, the chairman explaining that the need was so great that extensive efforts would be made to raise every possible penny to help relieve the starving men, women and little children in foreign lands. It is earnestly hoped that our people will continue to liberally support the movement and that well over \$1,000 can be raised locally. No late reports have been received from other areas in the county, but the appeal is being advanced in most of the townships, it was learned. A few from outside this immediate area have contributed to the drive here, it was pointed out.

Chairman Mobley said Monday that the committee planned to complete the canvass in the local business section this week, that all member of the Lions Club would carry the appeal into the residential areas Sunday afternoon between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 o'clock.

The drive was originally scheduled for the entire month of June, but the special Lions committee hopes to complete the task within the next week or ten days. The help of our people is cordially urged.

Donations received and not previously reported:

H. T. Taylor, \$2; A. Friend, \$100; Dixie Motor Company, \$50; E. and W. Grocery, \$5; Pioneer Shoppe, \$5; Proctor Shoppe, \$10; Peete Jewelry, \$5; Dardens, \$5; Eagles Store, \$5; Belk-Tyler, \$25; S. H. Grimes, \$5; Dr. M. L. Cer, \$5; Frank Weston, \$10; Basket Factory, \$10; Raymond Robinson, Garage and Store, \$5; George Harris' Station, \$1; Cherry Furniture Company, \$5; Harrison Shoppe, \$5; Garland Whitley, \$1; J. C. Norris, \$5; R. L. Coburn, \$3; B. A. Critcher, \$5; Peel and Manning, \$10; Dr. and Mrs. J. T. Llewellyn, \$5; Margolis Brothers, \$25; George Sfetos, \$25; F. A. Clark, \$4; Mrs. W. L. Howell, \$3; Mamie Clyde Taylor, \$3; R. W. Bondurant, \$5; E. L. Etheridge, \$5; J. Sam Getsinger, \$5; C. M. Manning, \$2; Plenny Peele, \$2;

W. S. Faulk, \$1; C. C. Sexton, \$50; Mrs. L. P. Holliday, \$1; Roger Critcher, Jr., \$1; Mrs. Ethel Anderson, \$1; M. M. Levin, \$1; Wilber Edwards, \$10; Elmer Davis-empport, \$5; A. Friend, \$10; Joseph Robinson, \$25; Hilton Peele, \$10; Mrs. Lemon Beach, \$5; Charlie Bullock, \$10; James E. Moore, \$60; Jessup Harrison, \$25; Tommie Black, \$50; Paul Harrington, \$50; K. O. Rogers, \$50; Marian Lilley, \$50; Ricardo Carson, \$5; Kenneth (Continued on page six)

## Jaycees Install Officers Friday

Meeting last Friday evening in the Woman's Club hall, the Williamston Jaycees installed their new officers for the coming year. Ernest Mears is succeeding Clarence W. Griffin as president of the organization. During Mr. Griffin's term which began when the club was organized less than a year ago, the organization has grown from eighteen members to one of forty-six members, it was pointed out. Exum Ward is the new vice president, Marion Cobb, secretary, and James Bullock, treasurer.

Three new directors, J. Paul Simpson, Wallace Tarkington and Dan Peel, were elected.

## Continues Gravely Ill In Washington Hospital

N. S. Riddick, local young man, continues gravely ill in a Washington hospital, reports reaching here late Monday stating that he was conscious only part of the time, that his condition is gradually weakening. A patient in the hospital for several weeks, he has been seriously ill during that time.