

Pay \$36,286 For School Operations In Martin County

Average Salary Paid Colored Teacher Higher Than Others In County

Martin County's 207 school teachers received \$34,711.65 in salaries for the first month of the current term, a recent review of the pay roll for the period reveals. In addition to that amount, \$1,575.00 was paid to the twelve janitors and forty bus drivers, boosting the total amount received in salaries by the teachers, bus drivers and janitors to \$36,286.65. In the first month of the 1945-46 term, the salaries received by the teachers, bus drivers and janitors amounted to \$34,211.32. Although there has been a cost increase of \$2,075.33, the average salary for the teachers and janitors is actually lower this term than it was a year ago. The increase is accounted for by a gain in the number of teachers. Last year there were 104 white and 90 colored teachers. This year, there are 109 white and 98 colored teachers, a gain of thirteen.

According to the records, colored teachers in the schools of this county are receiving, on an average, \$4.00 per month more than the white teachers. In one department, a single colored teacher is receiving nearly half as much as the combined amount received by three white teachers in the same department.

The average salary paid the white teacher in the elementary school this year is actually less than it was a year ago, dropping from \$159.34 to \$157.93 while the average salary paid the colored elementary teacher jumped from \$106.26 last term to \$167.74 this year.

In the home economics department, the lone colored teacher receives \$235.90 as compared with \$205.90 a year ago. The three home economics teachers in the white schools receive \$509.13, an average of \$169.71 which compares with an average of \$195.04 received last term.

Receiving \$279.60 on an average, the two colored high school principals average about \$13 a month more than the average paid the six white high school principals.

The sixteen white teachers in the high schools are receiving about \$10 per month more than they did a year ago, on an average, but they are still trailing the six colored teachers, \$156.36 to \$168.20.

The forty bus drivers are receiving the same salaries they were paid last year, or a total of \$540 for an average of \$13.50 per month. The twelve janitors last

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Ask Stronger Support For Bureau Membership Drive

Addressing a meeting of the membership committee at Chimney Corner last Friday evening, President Chas. L. Daniel explained that the drive for members had slowed down considerably and appealed to the members to get busy and push toward the goal.

"Martin County, it has been acknowledged, saved the farm bureau about ten years ago when by a concerted drive it saved the state organization financial embarrassment and encouraged the leaders to carry on," President Chas. Daniel said.

"We are asked to give the organization the support of 2,080 members this year," he continued. "To date, we have 1,301 reported. It is possible that two of three additional hundred have been signed, but the canvassers have not yet reported," Mr. Daniel explained.

The twenty members of the membership committee present at the "dutch" supper pledged their support in pushing the drive on to its goal, possibly by the 25th of this month when the group will again meet to review the progress of the canvass. Farmers, business men and others, during the meantime, are earnestly urged to join the organization and lend their support in the maintenance of a program designed to give agriculture a fighting chance along with other organizations. "We are entering a critical period and unless we are ably represented at the conference tables and in the legislative halls, we can't expect much," President Daniel declared, renewing his appeal for support of the Farm Bureau. If any one is missed in the canvass, he is asked to send his \$3 membership fee to Miss Mary Carstarphen, clerk to the secretary, Williamston.

Tragedy Strikes Twice In Family Of Mrs. Whichard

John Berry Whichard Killed Instantly In Accident Near Washington

Tragedy struck for the second time in the family of Mrs. Edith Whichard of Williamston early last Saturday morning when her son, John Berry Whichard, 36, was run down and instantly killed by an automobile near the Beaufort County fairgrounds, a short distance out of Washington on the Williamston highway. Another person, Joseph W. Ford, 74, of Philadelphia, was critically hurt and Loretta Hill, address unknown, suffered a broken leg.

Walking along the highway, Whichard was fatally hurt when the car, driven by Michael Yanulittis of Reynoldsville, Pa., went off the hardsurface and struck him. The car, said to have been stolen, then tore across the road and ran down the other two victims, coming to a stop in a ditch a short distance away. The driver got out of the car and fled, but he was arrested later and now stands charged with reckless driving, manslaughter and stealing an automobile. Yanulittis, reports reaching here stated, was connected with a carnival playing the Beaufort County fair. The other two victims of the man's wild drive were also connected with the show.

According to later reports reaching here, Ford, was not expected to live, while the other victim at the time was showing improvement.

Mrs. Whichard who lives here on Pine Street, lost a son, Pvt. Dennis H. Whichard, in the war. The young man was killed in Italy on July 11, 1944.

Funeral services for the last Saturday morning accident victim were conducted at the home in Beaufort County by Rev. M. L. Ambrose, and burial was in the Leggett family cemetery, near Old Ford.

Mr. Whichard, son of Mrs. Edith Terry Whichard of Williamston, and the late David B. Whichard of this county, was born in Beaufort County where he farmed. Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Cassie Leggett, two daughters, Clara, Opal and Jo Ann Whichard, and Mrs. Audrey White; four brothers, Charlie, Paul and Sam Whichard, of Martin County, and David Whichard of St. Paul's, N. C.; four sisters, Mrs. Charlie Hoell, Mrs. Ira Price, Mrs. Palmer White and Mrs. Frank Weatherby, all of Williamston, and his mother.

Dies Suddenly At Home In Virginia Sunday Morning

Funeral Service Here Today for the Former Miss Mary Gladys Watts

Mrs. Frederick Cresswell, a native of Williamston, died suddenly at her home in Alexandria, Virginia, Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock, the victim of a self-planned death by hanging. She had been in ill health for several weeks, and extremely despondent during more recent weeks. Knowing she was the mother of an ideal and congenial home and believing the state of her health was not serious, members of the family had not anticipated the action, and news of her untimely passing came as a great shock to relatives and hundreds of friends and acquaintances here who remembered her as one who loved life and one who seemed to get so much out of living.

The former Miss Mary Gladys Watts, she was born in Williamston on August 29, 1903, the daughter of the late James W. and Ophelia Hardison Watts.

After her graduation from the local schools, she studied at Salem. In early womanhood she was married to Robert Heydenreich, of Staunton, Va., who was employed by a paving firm for some time. Promoted to the superintendency of his firm, Mr. Heydenreich with Mrs. Heydenreich went to Albemarle and later located in Virginia and established a home in Alexandria where they lived until his death following a short illness in 1936. About three years later she was married to Frederick Cresswell, a native of Vancouver, Canada, and continued to make her home in Alexandria.

When quite young she affiliated with the local Methodist church, later joining Mr. Heydenreich in the Episcopal faith at Alexandria. Mrs. Cresswell is remembered here as one of the town's most popular girls whose genuine friendship and thoughtfulness endeared her to so many, including the old and the young in all stations of life.

Surviving are Mr. Cresswell; a daughter, Miss Mary Ann Heydenreich, a student at Mary Baldwin School, Staunton, Va., and Frederick Cresswell, Jr.; two brothers, Messrs. W. B. and J. W. Watts, and an aunt, Mrs. Pat Crawford, all of Williamston.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock from the home of her brother, Mr. J. W. Watts, on Ray Street by Rev. John W. Hardy, rector of the local Episcopal

Local Market Will Clear 75,000-Pound Block Today

Carrying over about 75,000 pounds from yesterday, the local tobacco market will clear the unexpected and unusually large block today, a spokesman for the board of trade said early today.

The sales will run well into the afternoon, however, and will carry the total for the season to well over nine million pounds.

Prices on the local market continue to hold to the records established last week when averages went right on by \$58.00 per hundred pounds. Just before sales were completed Monday afternoon, a warehouseman pointed out an entire row with a guaranteed average of \$61.00 or better per hundred pounds. Prices continue to hold to the 65-, 66- and 67-cent per pound top, a few going over, but not many.

Sales yesterday were unofficially estimated at 260,000 and the price at \$58.00 per hundred or more. The market went back on a four-hour selling schedule, but even then approximately 75,000 pounds were left on the floor for sale today and deliveries were still coming in at the close of the day.

Through last Friday the market had sold 8,636,676 pounds for an over-all average of \$50.26 or a total of \$4,340,464.38. During the first 35 selling days last season the market sold 9,432,342 pounds for \$4,147,424.72 or an average of \$43.97. While the current season is trailing by 796,666 pounds, the actual money received by the farmers is nearly \$200,000 greater than the amount received in the corresponding period last year.

Series Of Wrecks Reported In This Section Recently

Little Boy Badly Hurt When Hit by Car In Front Of Edgewood Dairy

One person, a six-year-old lad, was badly but believed not critically hurt and several others miraculously escaped unhurt in a series of automobile and truck accidents on the highways in this section during the past few days. One man, the son of Mrs. Edith Terry Whichard, was killed near Washington.

Jimmy Baity, six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Baity, was painfully cut on the face and badly battered and bruised on the head when he darted into the highway and was run down by a car driven by Mack Cratt, young white man of RFD 2, Williamston. Removed to the local hospital in a Biggs ambulance, the little fellow was said to be getting along very well. Playing across the highway from his home at the Edgewood Dairy, just west of the town limits, the lad saw a car traveling into town and after it passed he ran into the road. A second car, also driving into town, barely missed the lad, and about that time, Cratt, accompanied by his mother and driving out of town, saw the child and turned to his right in an effort to avoid striking him. The Cratt car, apparently traveling slowly, struck the child a glancing blow, Cratt bringing the machine to a stop a few feet away after plowing into bushes and a shallow ditch. The car did not pass over the child, and no bones were broken. Officers, investigating the accident, were of the opinion that there was no negligence on the part of the driver.

The Baitys, originally from Alabama, moved here just a months ago from Elizabeth City.

Clarence Lewis Brady and Martin Luther Morris escaped injury when the car and truck they were driving crashed on the Hamilton Road just outside the town limits here earlier in the week. Morris, driving a highway truck, started to make a left turn just as Brady started to pass him with his 1941 Pontiac. Patrolman W. E. Saunders, investigating the accident, estimated the damage to the car at \$250 and that to the truck at \$50.

Harry Adams White, Jr., of Durham, ran a large converted army truck off the river swamp fill near Conine Creek about 4:00 o'clock last Friday morning. The driver said he was rolling up a window, that the truck ran off the pavement and skidded down the embankment. He was not hurt and very little damage was done to the truck, but special wrecking

Seek Separate Fish And Game Division

Gravelly Talks To County Fishermen And Hunters Here

Declares Demand Will Be Made For New Deal In Fish-Game Division

Addressing about one hundred and fifty interested hunters and fishermen in the Williamston High School Gymnasium last Friday evening, P. K. Gravelly, president of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, called for a new deal for the hunters and fishermen of the State, and stressed the need for separating the game and fish division from the State Department of Conservation and Development.

"We do not say that there aren't splendid men in the present department, and it is not our purpose or aim to get anyone's job, but it is apparent that something is wrong and we believe the present system of handling game and fish problems must be changed," the federation president declared.

"And there are indications now that 25,000 federation club members will demand at the next session of the state legislature a change in the present system," he stated.

Opening his address, Mr. Gravelly said that a fish and game commission was created by law about twenty years ago, that regulation was placed in the hands of the counties. The need for conservation was evident and a division was created on a state-wide basis. It was to be separate from the department of conservation and development, but at the last minute it was included in the big department set-up, Gravelly said. Since that time, he pointed out, each new governor appoints fifteen members who, in turn, select the game and fish commissioner. Representatives from the various counties went before the legislature and asked that the appointments be staggered so that the board would not lose its identity every four years.

"The legislature, at first, would not do anything, but finally agreed to limit the appointments to ten. But that was enough to control the board's policies, and continue the short-term program which has proved inadequate in maintaining the wildlife resources of the state.

"When the legislature failed to act to improve the system, the federation was created by a group of men interested in the promotion of wildlife resources. The federation is sponsoring a bill calling for nine members of the game and fish division, one to be appointed by districts for one year, another for two years and so on, the last to serve nine years. The members to be appointed are to have a real interest in hunting and fishermen. They must be hunters or fishermen, farmers or biologists, and the appointments would be recommended by hunters and fishermen in the nine districts."

The speaker declared that any number of programs had been adopted and taxed with the costs.

Control On Meat Ordered Lifted

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The President, indirectly admitting that a few packers and the little clique that opposed Franklin D. Roosevelt in his every move had triumphed over the American economy, charged the packers with the responsibility of holding prices in line and heading off any further inflation threat.

Mr. Truman, explaining that every possible plan for relieving the situation had been studied and given full consideration, pointed out that decontrol was the only solution to a problem, the origin of which was traced back to last June when Congress refused to act to head off the crisis.

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These men, he said, "have been determined for some time to wreck price controls, no matter what the cost might be to our people."

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Record Crowds Attend Meeting

One of the largest, if not the largest congregations ever crowded into the local Christian church heard Rev. Newton Robison, visiting minister, open the second week in a series of two weeks' evening services last Sunday evening.

No services were scheduled in most of the other churches, and the congregation included representatives from every church in town and several from other communities.

Rev. Mr. Robison, coming here from the Raleigh church, took his text from the 13th chapter of Hebrews, "Christ Yesterday, Today, and Forever."

Several new members have been added to the church roll.

The meeting is scheduled to close on Friday evening of this week.

Youth Center Is Formally Opened

Over 200 visits were made by the local teen-agers during the opening week-end at the local youth center. Approximately 60 young people signed the register at the open house on Friday night, despite a conflicting football game and scout jamboree.

An equal number of parents and other interested persons visited the center on opening night.

At 9:00 Friday night, Rev. Mr. Goff extended a welcome to the teen-agers and other visitors and expressed his appreciation to all those who helped to make the center possible. He then introduced Mayor John Hassell. Mayor Hassell told of the work behind the opening of the center and mentioned the number of changes that had come about since the time of the Lost Colony. He recalled the time when the lot on which the center now stands was just a piece of land that "somebody didn't want to pay taxes on." He also gave his listeners other interesting facts about North Carolina including a vivid description of the western part of the state.

The mayor expressed special appreciation to the Legion for the use of the hut and explained that it was open to all youth in the county.

At the conclusion of Mayor Hassell's talk, Mr. Goff recognized Mrs. G. G. Woolard for her work in helping to make the youth center possible. Following this, Mrs. George Corey, supervisor of the center, was introduced.

Refreshments were served throughout the evening.

Three Cases In Oak City Court

Justice J. B. Whitfield heard three cases in his court at Oak City last week-end.

Alice Dickens, charged with being drunk and disorderly and creating a disturbance in the county town late one night, was fined \$15 and required to pay the costs. Mary Dickens and Billy White, facing similar charges, were each fined \$5, and taxed with the costs by the trial justice.

Rufus Taylor, charged with public drunkenness, was fined \$5 and taxed with the costs.

Farm Life Parent-Teachers To Meet

The Farm Life Parent-Teacher Association will hold its regular meeting Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the Farm Life school building.

All patrons and friends of the school are extended a special invitation to attend this meeting.

Blind Program At Lions Club

The local Lions Club was honored to have the Williamston school faculty as special guests last Thursday evening, in one of its most interesting meetings of the year.

During the meal, served by the Methodist Guild, piano selections were rendered by Mrs. W. E. Thornton.

Professor T. E. Stough, from the Blind Institute of Raleigh, had two of his teachers and two pupils with him to entertain and show what the school is doing. George Bennett, a senior, played several selections on the piano and violin and ten-year-old Harvey Miller sang several songs during the evening. Prof. Stough made an interesting comparison on the public school and the institute of the blind.

Lion Clarence Griffin made a very interesting speech on "Lionism" and what the Lions are trying to do throughout the world in aiding the less-fortunate. Several projects that have been handled by the Williamston club were also mentioned.

Lion Stewart was called on to introduce his teachers, after which the meeting was turned over to Lions Homer Barnhill and Exum Ward who presented guest prizes to the holders of lucky tickets.

Other guests present were Dr. Beach Ward Sitterton of Kenansville, Miss Jill Peden, the Lions case worker with the blind, and her assistant, Miss Mary Coltrain.

After a brief discussion of routine business the meeting was adjourned.—Reported.

Conducting Services In County Christian Church

Rev. Preston Cayton of Edenton is conducting a series of evangelistic services in the Sweet Home Christian Church this week.

Opened last evening, the meeting will continue through the week with services scheduled for each night at 7:30 o'clock. Homecoming will be observed next Sunday morning, and the public is invited.

Robbers Abandon One Car And Take Another One Here

Investigating One Crime, Officers Stumble On Another

Robbers, possibly a man and a woman, broke into Dan Gardner's store and Silvertorne's garage just outside the town limits here on the Hamilton Highway early last Friday morning. Investigating the two robberies, officers stumbled upon another alleged crime, that of the registration of a man with another man's wife in a local rooming house. No charges were preferred against the alleged adulterers, both of whom were said to have been brought here from Tarboro by a taxi driver.

Going to the Gardner store, the robbers forced an entrance by breaking a back window. A pistol was stolen, but as far as the store owner could determine nothing else was carried away, the robbers leaving sugar stamps and sugar and other scarce items un molested.

The robbers then went to the garage where they forced an entrance by tearing off the front door lock. Nothing was missed there except five gallons of cylinder oil.

Later that morning a squirrel hunter found a 1938 Chevrolet sedan stuck and abandoned in the mud on the path leading off the Hamilton Highway near the Whitley farm to the old Davis or Claude Griffin farm. The hunter reported his find and officers investigated. Little progress was made with the investigation, but the tracks of a man and woman were noticed in the mud around the car. The officers later learned that a man and woman checked in at the local hotel that morning about 4:00 o'clock. The law thought it had its prey cornered, but the officers were soon convinced they were on the wrong track in the search for a solution to the robberies.

During the meantime, the robbers are believed to have been the ones who stole and drove away Ernest Etheridge's Ford coupe from in front of his home on Simmons Avenue about 4:00 o'clock that morning. The Etheridge car was found abandoned on a street at the edge of Wilson Saturday. The machine apparently was not damaged.

Checking the license on the car found stuck near the Whitley farm, officers learned that the machine, belonging to Claude E. Willie of Pollockville, was stolen in Trenton, Jones County, about 10 o'clock Thursday morning.

Registration

Registration of new voters for the election next month was off to a slow start in this county last Saturday, according to incomplete reports reaching here.

Most of the precincts reported no business at all, Registrar S. H. Grimes stating that he did not have the first registrant in Williamston's No. 2 precinct. The No. 1 precinct here, Mrs. Jos. Griffin, registrar, had one voter to transfer her name from the Jamesville books.

The books will be open for two more Saturdays, and it has been pointed out that servicemen casting absentee ballots without registering, must register now to qualify as electors in future elections.

Round-Up

There wasn't quite as much business for Jailer Roy Peel last week as there was the week before, but he cared for nine guests registered in the county jail at the direction of local and county officers during the period.

Five were booked for being drunk and disorderly and one each for an assault, affray and a ninth one was ordered to serve three days in jail as a result of an auto wreck. Five of the nine were white and the ages of the group ranged from 20 to 60 years.

COMMITTEES

Williamston's recently reorganized Parent-Teacher Association is planning an active program for the future, Hugh G. Horton, president, said this week. Committee appointments are being considered and a working organization is to be expected within the next few days, the president said yesterday.

The local organization is back in the state list, a goodly number of local patrons having taken time out to attend a district meeting in Columbia last week where and when the combie association was reorganized.

General Increase In Farm Prices

According to Department of Agriculture figures, there has been a general increase in prices received by farmers for their produce. The following figures show how much prices have increased from September, 1943 to September, 1946.

Corn increased from \$1.55 to \$2.03 per bushel, wheat, from \$1.56 to \$2.25; rye, from \$1.60 to \$2.45; cotton, from .207 to .345; hogs, from 13.60 to 16.60; beef cattle, from 10.10 to 14.90; eggs, 43 cents to 52 cents; butter from 37 cents to 53 cents; peanuts, 8 cents to 9 1-2 cents; sweet potatoes, from 2.25 to 2.50.

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The President, indirectly admitting that a few packers and the little clique that opposed Franklin D. Roosevelt in his every move had triumphed over the American economy, charged the packers with the responsibility of holding prices in line and heading off any further inflation threat.

Mr. Truman, explaining that every possible plan for relieving the situation had been studied and given full consideration, pointed out that decontrol was the only solution to a problem, the origin of which was traced back to last June when Congress refused to act to head off the crisis.

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These men, he said, "have been determined for some time to wreck price controls, no matter what the cost might be to our people."

"The people," he added, "will know where the responsibility rests if profiteering on meat raises prices so high that the average American cannot buy it."

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