

## Exceed March Of Dimes Quota By A Large Margin

### County Schools Accounted For About Half Of Amount Raised

While there were no excessive individual gifts, the annual March of Dimes in this county far exceeded the \$2,120 goal when it was accorded a liberal support in all quarters, especially in most of the schools where about one-half of the amount was raised.

Reporting as of Saturday, February 1, drive Chairman L. B. Wynne stated that a total of \$3,006.18 had been turned over to the treasurer, W. Clyde Griffin. The chairman added that the Robersonville High School, Farm Life and three colored schools were yet to report.

Commenting briefly on the fund finances in the county, Chairman Wynne explained that heavy demands last year had overdrawn the account, that the treasurer had met the overdrafts himself. The amount is being repaid, and the chairman is hopeful the balance will meet all emergency needs this year. He also explained that the fund is available to all polio cases irrespective of all factors, race or creed, and added that he hoped no one would have occasion to need it. "But the fund is ready to help," he concluded.

Summarizing the support accorded the 1947 drive, Chairman Wynne said he was well pleased with reports from every quarter. The white schools reporting through last Saturday raised \$1,207.07 and the seventeen colored schools reported \$304.50. Three theaters in the county raised \$524.00. Direct mail solicitations raised \$816.95. Williamston's two civic clubs contributed \$61, and \$171.87 came from other sources, to exceed the original quota by about \$966.

Just about 50 percent or 197 of the 404 persons solicited by direct mail recognized the appeals. A contribution of \$10 was received from Will Crawford who is on the Tennessee markets, the chairman stating that the gift was the only one coming from outside the county.

The following report was filed by the chairman:

White Schools: Oak City, \$52.75; Hamilton, \$41.87; Hassell, \$12; Williamston Elementary, \$486.67; Everetts, \$68.65; Robersonville Elementary, \$182.00; Jamesville, \$28.87; Williamston High School, \$269.16; and Bear Grass, \$64.

Colored Schools: Biggs School, \$41.15; Dardens, \$14.50; Everetts, \$25.50; Hamilton, \$17.60; Williams Lower, \$13.50; Bear Grass, \$5.00; Poplar Point, \$4.20; White Oak Springs School, \$10; Rogers School, \$19.05; Robersonville, \$56.87; Jones School, \$8; Whitchard-James, \$11; Gold Point, \$20; Cross Roads, \$7.50; Salsbury School, \$20.78; Oak City, \$23.55; Burroughs Spring Hill, \$6.30.

Watts Theatre, \$154.12; Marco Theatre, \$93.49; Trio Theatre, \$276.48.

Colored Baptist Church, Robersonville, \$9; Maple Grove Sunday School, \$10; Maple Grove Ladies Aid, \$5; Coin collectors—Williamston and two in Everetts, \$17.50; Coin collectors, Robersonville, \$16.77; collected by R. K. Adkins in Robersonville, \$113.40. Lions Club, \$36; Kiwanis Club, \$25; and Direct Mail Solicitation, \$816.95.

## County Young Men Join The Service

Four young Martin County men, Charles L. Fulford, RFD 3, Williamston; Vernon R. Moore, 400 W. Main Street; Russell B. Warren, 400 W. Main Street, and James L. Cowan, 608 W. Main Street, all of Williamston, recently joined the Army, Ernest H. Whitaker, Jr., recruiting sub-station commander, Greenville, announced this week.

The recruiter explained that the termination of hostilities declared by President Harry Truman last December 31 had no bearing on the benefits offered under the G. I. Bill of Rights and family allotments. They are still in effect, he explained.

## Fred Chesson Badly Hurt In Accident Here Monday

Fred Chesson, 40-year-old local garage operator, was injured, possibly seriously, on West Main Street here yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock when he was struck by a car driven by Mrs. Dennis Hardy. He suffered a compound fracture of the right leg between the knee and ankle and a bad cut over his right eye. A complete examination could not be made immediately and it is possible that he was hurt internally and there is a slight fracture of the skull. Suffering severe shock, he was reported in a semi-conscious condition.

Removed to the local hospital he was reported this morning to be resting as well as could be expected.

Driving to his home a short distance beyond the underpass on

West Main Street, he parked his car in the yard and started across the street to get a package of cigarettes at Joe Hodge's filling station. Witnesses stated that he was part of the way across the road when he saw a car approaching from the east, that he stepped back and got into the path of the Hardy car which was traveling west. One report stated that he was knocked several feet into the air and fell to the edge of the highway, his head resting on the pavement.

C. H. Bagley and Mr. Chesson's daughter, Miss Virginia Chesson, witnessed the accident and they were quoted as saying that the Hardy car was not traveling fast, that Mrs. Hardy brought it to a stop a few feet away. Unnerved by the accident, Mrs. Hardy was placed in the care of a physician.

## Commissioner Evans Offers Facts About Program At Meeting

### MISSED

The ground hog or the woodchuck, if one prefers, missed his calling this year when he failed to live up to the reputation self-styled weather prophets have accredited him with for so long a time. The animal was obliged to have seen his shadow Sunday, but Monday the sun was still shining and the mercury climbed to a point above normal. That there will be bad weather before the winter is spent the latter part of next month is fairly certain, but so far Mr. Ground Hog's reputation is suffering or else he is on strike.

And speaking about the weather, the mercury held to high levels during most of January and while rain fell on 21 of the 31 days in the month total precipitation was only 3.85 inches.

## Legislators Talk Over Activities In The Assembly

### Special Bill Creating A Primary Being Drafted By Representative

Martin County's legislators were convinced last week-end that the folks back home are interested in the General Assembly activities.

Coming home to spend the week-end with their families, both Representative C. B. Martin and Senator Hugh G. Horton were buttonholed first by one and then the other, all interested in progressive legislation.

Representative Martin explained that a special bill creating a primary election for the town of Williamston would be drafted on Tuesday of this week, that he felt certain of its passage. Discussing briefly the Good Health program, the representative stated that some strong opposition was developing, that the proposal to divorce the game and fish business from the Department of Conservation and Development would be decided in the Senate, that a majority favored the proposal in the House. As for the Health program, Mr. Martin intimated that he would support the measure. It is fairly well certain that a vast majority in this county favor the program and want it passed.

"We hope to get home about the middle of March," the legislator said when asked how long he thought the present session would last.

Discussing pending legislation in the assembly, Senator Horton declared that he was not against salary increases for school teachers, and explained that he voted

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## How County Votes Has Nothing To Do With Its Highways

### Money Allotted On Basis Of Factors Equal To All The Counties

Speaking to the Martin County commissioners in regular session Monday, Highway Commissioner Merrill Evans knocked the old belief that to the victor go the political spoils when he said that it made no difference if a county voted for or against the administration. "Every district and every county is allotted its equal share, based on certain factors that have been worked out."

After hearing several special delegations appeal for certain road projects, Commissioner Evans said that he appreciated the position of the petitioners and wanted them to take an interest in their roads and the commissioner's work. "But the first thing that we must consider in preparing projects is to spend the money where it will serve the most people. Before we can assign a project, we must weigh it against every other possible project," the commissioner said.

Mr. Evans declared that road building is not a grab game, and added, "We are anxious to do the very best job possible. We are taking the money allotted this district and dividing it the very best we can for the greatest number," he said.

The commissioner explained that money spent on bridges and similar projects is not charged against any county, and went on to say that he and his engineers, Messrs. McKim and Mack, had tried to look after the interests of Martin County. "We do not believe in pushing 'feeder' roads ahead of those needed to serve the people in Martin County. I'll leave it to you to decide if it was the past policy of district commissioners to pull the program into their respective spheres," the commissioner said, declaring that he had nothing to do with Highway No. 11 leading from Oak City to the filling station near Hassell. "And I do not take the credit or responsibility for it," he said, explaining that was handled ahead of him.

It is still a mystery to the Martin County folks who are still mired down in mud to understand how an adjoining county could come over into Martin, lend that \$5,400 of its allotted funds for the construction of a road over here. Mr. Evans did not say if Martin is having to pay back the allotment literally jammed down the folks' throat in this county.

Citizens attending the meeting and impressed by the repeated contract lettings for highway projects in other counties, asked if federal aid projects would be possible in this county. It was explained that one is in the making

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## Badly Skinned In Motorbike Wreck Near Here Friday

### Car Turns Over In Swamp At Old Mill Inn Thursday

Kader Gardner, local white man, was painfully but believed not seriously hurt when he was knocked off his motorbike at the Staton farm on Highway 17 near here last Friday evening at 6:30 o'clock by a small truck. He was badly skinned and bruised and suffered shock, but was able to return to his home following treatment in a local doctor's office.

Gardner was riding in the direction of Washington when J. Paul Lilley, driving a light truck, approached from the rear. Lilley explained that he was meeting another vehicle, that he was partially blinded by the lights and did not see Gardner until he was right at him. He swerved his truck and hit the victim a side blow. Gardner fell on the fender and then skidded and rolled down the highway about thirty feet. The motorbike fell under the wheels of the truck and was smashed, Patrolman W. E. Saunders estimating the damage to the two-wheeled vehicle at \$150. "It was completely smashed," the investigating officer said.

The patrolman pointed out that it was fairly apparent that the small red reflector on bicycles and motorbikes hardly offered the riders sufficient protection, that such vehicles should be equipped with lighted red light and better head lights.

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## Recreation Program Proposed For Town

### Nominal Sum Is Appropriated By Town Board Here

### Commissioners Discuss Varied Business Program Last Night

Heading a delegation composed of Mesdames J. E. King and Garland Woolard and Billy Griffin, John L. Geff last evening appealed to the local town commissioners for a \$2,500 annual appropriation to support a coordinated recreational program for the youth of this section. Spokesmen for the recreation executive committee, the minister explained that the experimental program conducted during the past four months had proved successful, that the center maintained in the legion hut here had been visited by more than 1,400 boys and girls from various parts of the county even though limited hours had been observed.

"We are looking to the summer months and suggest that the work of the physical education director in the schools be coordinated with that of the youth program," the spokesman said. Such a program will cost approximately \$2,500 a year, it was pointed out, the minister adding that some provision should be made for the colored youth of the community.

A committee composed of Commissioners Green and Griffin was appointed by Mayor Pro Tem Lindsley and the two men are to meet with the school committee, study the proposal and work with the executive committee in formulating a coordinated program. During the meantime, the town agreed to allot \$625 for the continuance of the present program through next June 30.

Appearing before the board, Dr. T. Llewellyn pointed out that conditions existing back of the pressing club adjoining his property constituted a definite danger as was proved by a recent fire, and that the smoke was a nuisance, and he went on to ask for relief. "I want to be fair and square about the situation, but the town is large enough to adopt rules and regulations for the protection of property," the physi-

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## Supreme Court To Review Criminal

### Attack Case Soon

Forty-two mimeographed pages of evidence and Judge Henry Stevens' charge to the jury have been filed with the high court along with three main exceptions to the evidence by the defense. While the action of the court is to be awaited, a review of the exceptions, observers believe, are little more than perfunctory ones and are, at the best, quite weak.

The defense, in its No. 1 exception, asks: "Is it error for the sheriff, a witness, to state that the prosecutrix told him the defendant left the Moore home by the front door, and there locate some tracks and state further that he said tracks 'correspond' with the shoe and were 'exactly' like the shoe prints he found on the ground?"

Elaborating on the exception, the defense maintains that it did not recall anywhere in the testimony where the prosecuting witness said defendant left by the

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## Mayor Hassell Not Feeling Very Well

Confined by illness since Christmas and spending most of that time in the hospital, Mayor John L. Hassell was said late Monday not to be feeling so well. Last week he was able to be up and went for short rides several afternoons, but he suffered a relapse during the week-end and is now confined to his room in the local hotel.

## Opposes \$100,000 Memorial Project In Martin County

### Robersonville Club Names Committee To Work For Individual Projects

Addressing the regular meeting of Robersonville Rotarians recently, Mrs. William H. Gray voiced the opinion that the proposed \$100,000 War Memorial should not be centralized in any one community, that a tribute to the memory of those who fought and died in the service of their country should be reflected in individual community projects.

Mrs. Gray, expressing a "Woman's viewpoint on Martin County's Legionnaires' proposed \$100,000 War Memorial," was quoted as saying, "The Legion Hut in Williamston has been a real asset to Williamston. It has been used by citizens of Williamston for a number of public functions, and to house Williamston's public library."

"It appears to me that \$100,000 is a lot of money to spend for the service to be derived from it. "If we are going to build a memorial to veterans there are many things in each community it would like to build. Why not divide up the amount of money and build something in each community. If this money is coming from the taxpayers why not allot the sum to the several communities and let each community decide what it wants most?" Mrs. Gray suggested.

Continuing she said, "I propose that Robersonville use its allotted amount for a hospital as a mem-

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## Discuss Highway Program And Problems At Regular Meeting Of County Authorities Monday

### Thirty-Five Man Delegation From Hassell Present

### Plans Would Delay Work On Hassell Project Until Next Year

Climaxing twenty-five years of repeated appeals to highway authorities, a thirty-five man delegation headed by Mr. John W. Eubanks presented a strong appeal to highway officials at a meeting of the county commissioners Monday for the surfacing of the road from Butler's Bridge on Highway 125 to Fountain's Cross Roads, via Hassell. Every argument in the books was advanced in support of the project, and the delegation spokesmen, including Mr. Eubanks, Messrs. Geo. Leggett, Alton White, J. D. Etheridge and G. W. Ayers, made a strong case in support of their claim.

It was pointed out that the surfacing of the road would provide a shorter distance for east-west traffic, that it would benefit hundreds of farmers who patronize the Hassell potato market and who have had to haul their peanuts extra miles to get them to county markets.

"We sincerely believe that the Hassell project is the most important link in the county," Mr. Eubanks said, adding that he and members of the delegation were not fighting other projects. "In years past we have contacted Commissioners Hart, Kugler, Flanagan, Barnes and Wilson and our present commissioner (Mr. Merrill Evans) is the first one to show enough interest to make a personal first-hand investigation. We greatly appreciate his interest. We have been pleading for what one must admit is a just claim that we feel justified in appealing to the authorities in giving the Hassell project a No. 1 priority.

"We have noticed more improvements to the roads in the past six months than at any other time in ten years, and we are grateful for those improvements," Mr. Eubanks said. "We know the funds are available now but if we are turned down again and again the funds will be exhausted in time and we'll still be in the

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## County Board In All-Day Meeting

Hearing various delegations and reviewing the proposed 1947 road program, the Martin County Commissioners were in session all day Monday. Other than the road matters very little came before the authorities.

After studying the road program proposed by Commissioner Merrill Evans, the board, according to unofficial reports, asked that every effort be made to include the Hassell-Butler Bridge road in the 1947 program. The commissioners recalled that the project had been promised for this year, and they expressed the hope that it could be included in the current program.

Jurymen, including nine for grand jury service, were drawn at the meeting Monday.

Going before the board, Mrs. Mamie Roberson asked that she be paid for chickens destroyed by hound dogs. She was allowed \$25, the amount to come out of the dog tax fund.

Tax relief orders were granted as follows: For 1945, Roberson Spruill estate, \$13 listed in error in Williamston Township; James O. Andrews relieved of the payment of \$2 on account of his health; Sully Jenkins, \$2 listed in Hamilton, dead.

For 1946: Wm. E. Merritt of Poplar Point, \$2, army; Willie Clemmons of Poplar Point, \$4.89, dead; Charlie Raynor, Hamilton, \$3.05, dead; and James I. Jones, Goose Nest, \$2.93, dead.

### AUTO TAGS

The sale of 1947 motor vehicle tags is believed to have broken all records up to the first of this month, according to a report coming from the office of Harrison and Carstarphen where the Carolina Motor Club license bureau is housed here. Through January 31, the bureau had sold 5,735 tags as compared with 5,317 handled in the corresponding period for 1946. The number of auto tags jumped from 3,935 to 4,210 this year. Private truck tags increased from 716 to 806, farm trucks remained the same at 46, car trailers jumped from 548 to 591 and commercial trucks increased from 72 to 82.

A few old tags were displayed after the dead line and several vehicle operators were carried into the courts, costing them \$10 in fines in addition to the court costs. The new tags must be displayed or vehicle operators will be cited to the courts.

## Edgecombe Bank And Trust Opens Oak City Branch

### Informal Program Planned By Community For Wednesday

Sponsored by interested citizens in the community in cooperation with the Edgecombe Bank and Trust Company of Tarboro, a branch bank will be opened in Oak City on Wednesday of this week. No detailed program for the event has been announced, but the people of the community are planning a big day. There'll be short speeches, including an address of welcome, but the main attraction will be a big barbecue dinner. One report stated that twenty pigs are being prepared for the dinner. Special invitations have been issued and most of the community will recognize the day as a holiday to celebrate the opening of the financial institution.

While the institution is a branch of the Edgecombe Bank and Trust Company, Tarboro, the institution is largely supported by local people, including about twenty stockholders. The loan committee who will handle much

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## Education Board Hears Delegation

Appearing before a meeting of the Martin County Board of Education Monday, a Bear Grass delegation headed by the school committee and principal appealing for a building to house two class rooms, economics department and lunch room. It was pointed out that the school earned an additional teacher this term, that room was provided only after renovating an out-building formerly used as a work shop.

It was explained by the board chairman that the project holds a high priority on the county's school expansion program, but that no action is to be expected immediately or not until "building costs are stabilized."

Burned out last spring, the Everetts colored school is not expected to have a place to meet after this term as the churches housing the pupils are asking to be relieved. Original plans for a building were abandoned last summer when it was estimated the project would cost around \$140,000. The board instructed the superintendent this week to investigate other arrangements for housing the school next year.

A new roof costing \$1,800 is to be placed on the Oak City building, the cost to include some repairs to the walls.

## Outlines Highway Program For 1947 In Martin County

### Contract Pending For Road In Griffins; "Dot" Paving In Other Sections

Appearing before the regular meeting of the Martin County Commissioners Monday, District Highway Commissioner Merrill Evans of Ahsokie outlined the highway program for 1947 in Martin County after hearing delegations appeal for certain projects.

A Tyner town delegation headed by Eddie Watts Brown asked the commissioner to take over the mile-long road leading off the dirt highway leading to Bear Grass and running to the Holness church. It is to be investigated.

A Williams Township delegation headed by Frank Barber asked that a mile be added to the highway system in the island. The appeal will be investigated, the commissioner assured them.

Briefly reviewing the 1946 accomplishments, Highway Commissioner Evans, accompanied by Engineers Mack and McKim, said that 4 of a mile had been surfaced in Hamilton, 6 of a mile in Parmele, 1.2 miles out of Everetts, about one mile by the prison camp, 3.2 miles on the Holl Springs Road in Williams Township, a mile out from Jamesville, the Slaughter House road and portion of the Robersonville-Flat Swamp road. "All of these could have been combined into one project, but we thought it best to 'dot' them about the county where more people would be served than by a single project," Mr. Evans said.

Turning to the 1947 program, Mr. Evans said that he recognized that both the "river road" and Hassell projects were important but in as much as material supplies are still short, we propose to surface six miles on the Hamilton-Palmyra or River Road this year and virtually guarantee the Hassell project next year.

The commissioner then went on to say that the survey for extending the Griffins Township Road to Farm Life had been completed and that a contract could be expected soon under the federal aid program.

Mr. Evans also said that it was proposed to extend the prison camp road about four more miles toward Cross Roads, add about two and one-half miles on the Robersonville end of the Cross Roads road this year and finish the loop next year. "That's mighty good country," the commissioner said.

The 1947 program, as explained by the commissioner, also call for 1.5 miles additional surfacing on the Robersonville-Flat Swamp Road.

"We see not other way to

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## Edgewood Dairy Sells Its Plan

The Edgewood Dairy plant, one of the first Grade A dairies in the county and operated for years by Messrs. Wheeler Martin and Frank Weaver and more recently by Martin and Carstarphen, was sold last week-end to Bradshaw Dairy, operators of extensive dairy interests with headquarters in Franklin, Va.

Purchasing the equipment and good will of the Edgewood operators, the new firm took over deliveries here Sunday morning. Complete details of the transfer were not announced, but it was learned that the new firm will enlarge the local plant and maintain it for storage. The local Edgewood operator will maintain his herd for the present and wholesale to the new firm who will pasteurize and offer for sale.