

## Names Of Honor Pupils In Local Schools Listed

**Scholastic Requirements Are Met By 160 During Recent Period**

The names of 160 pupils appear on the honor list in the local schools for the six-week period recently ended, it was announced this week by Principal B. G. Stewart. Only 12 of the honor names belonged to pupils in the high school.

The names of honor pupils, follow, by grades:

Miss Baker's first grade: Billy Ray Bowen, Billy Carstarphen, Jimmy Cooke, Constance Chesson, Dianne Cherry, Mary Claudia Cherry, Leora Coltrain, and Betty Davis.

Miss Hardy's first grade: Ray Pate, Bobby Perry, Guy Thomas, Jr., Gerald Stalls, Sandra Modlin, Dorothy Moore, Mary Lynn Pate, Beth Spivey, Peggy Ann Stevenson and Ora Whitaker.

Mrs. Morris' first grade: Sue Eubanks, Sally Grey Griffin, Eugenia Hoyt Glover, Roberta Harrison, Francis Johnson, Betty Modlin, Kenneth Gurganus, James Daniel Leggett, Danny Manning, Lee Roy Rogerson, and Samuel M. Rogerson.

Mrs. Carstarphen's second grade: Carolyn Beauchemin, Nancy Britton, Peggy Godard, Blanche Manning, Jane Peele, Mary Lee White, Jimmy Hardison, and Clayton Weston.

Miss Crawford's second grade: Nancy Bullock, Ann Darden, Emma J. Godard, Henry Handy, Patricia Lee Harrison, Ann Harrison, Allan Modlin, Joe Murphy, Janie Peaks, Tommy Phelps, and Gene Silverthorne.

Mrs. Kimball's third grade: Faye White, Vivian Pate, Gerald White, Iverson Skinner, Joseph Clayton, John Clinton House, Angeline Dickerson and Rudy Ward.

Mrs. Froneberger's third grade: William Battey, Jan Clark, Billy Dudley, Grady Godard, James Herbert Ward, Jr., Sandra Gardner, Joyce Lilly, Jane Adams Manning, Sandra Margolis, Annette Rogers, Elicene Smithwick.

Miss Manning's third grade: Jeanette Raynor, Faye Peele, Jean Nicholson, Phyllis Jones, Jane Barnhill, Joyce Baker, Billy Simpson, Rodney Pittman, Billy Partin.

Miss Everett's fourth grade: Barbara Cherry, Doris Rogers, Jean Coltrain, James Pittman, and Janie Mobley.

Mrs. Fussell's fourth grade: Freddie Harrison, Bobby Manning, William Moore, Edward Rogerson, Mary Elizabeth Britton, Jessie Marie Corey, Frankie Everett, Patricia Harrison, Sylvia Perry, and Kathryn Spruill.

Miss Jenkins' fourth grade: Annette Brack, Melva Wynne, Joyce Manning, John Dunn, Janice Rogers, Robert Weston, and Lelia May Goff.

Miss Bailey's fifth grade: Betty S. Clark, Lee Handy, Judith Rogers, and William Clyde Robertson.

Mrs. Coburn's fifth grade: Janice Manning, Betty Helen Mobley, Janet Ross, Patricia Wynne, Dorothy Mobley, and Wilber Stewart.

Miss Modlin's fifth grade: William Cullipher, David Davis, Jr., Charles Johnson, Ralph Parker, Judith Barden Avers, Anne Crawford.

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## Child Slightly Hurt In Accident

Billy, two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Modlin was only scratched and slightly bruised when he was thrown out of the Modlin car in a highway accident a few miles out of Jamesville on the Plymouth highway early last Thursday night. No others were hurt but considerable property damage resulted. W. E. Saunders and W. T. Simpson, of the highway patrol, reported following an investigation. Later reports stated Mr. Modlin was suffering with a sore neck.

Driving toward Plymouth, Mr. Modlin started to make a left turn with his 1938 model car just about the time Delbert Davis, Jr., driving a 1941 Chrysler, started to pass. The Modlin car was turned over and the child was thrown several feet and clear of the wreck. Property damage was estimated at about \$200.

## Coroner Will Probe W. R. Bowers' Death

**PRESIDENT**



**Hildreth P. Mobley was elected president of the local parent-teacher association at a meeting of the organization held in the grammar school last evening. He succeeds Hugh G. Horton.**

## Believe Chemical Will Eliminate Tobacco Suckers

**Maryland Experiment Station Is Making Tests With Tobacco Now**

Martin County tobacco farmers are anxiously awaiting the completion of tests that will, it is believed, eliminate tobacco suckers and lighten the burden for the grower during his busiest period of the year. No costs were mentioned in the first stories coming from the experiment station in Maryland, but if the chemical isn't priced higher than gold and will handle the job, there is good reason to believe it will find a ready market.

The story, announcing the experiment, follows: A spray that causes tobacco plants to forget how to grow anything except large leaves has been discovered by the plant industry station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md.

The purpose is to cut the expense of growing fine tobaccos. The announcement was made today in the weekly journal, *Science*, by Robert A. Steinberg.

Tobacco growers now get the large leaves by cutting off the tops of the plants at the flowering stage. This cut deprives the plants of a hormone present in the growing tips. Lacking this hormone, plants stop growing taller.

The plants then try to grow wider, and incidentally produce larger leaves. But they overdo, by putting out new buds down their stems. The buds, called suckers, interfere with the broadening of the leaves already present. The farmer has to pick off these suckers by hand, a considerable labor job.

Hormones already were known to control most everything else except suckers in the growth of a plant. Some hormones even would grow roots in the air. So the U. S. scientists hunted for a sucker hormone. They found one that was as effective as hand picking. It is a synthetic chemical produced by the Dow Company, Midland, Mich. The synthetic name is a-naphthylacetic acid methyl ester.

When plants are treated in the laboratory with this chemical, the leaves grow just as large as with hand suckering.

The method is under trial now in tobacco fields to learn whether it will work as well outdoors.

## Announce Birth And Death Of Infant Son

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cherry, Jr., announce the birth and death of a son, Thomas Frederick, in a Washington hospital on Wednesday, April 23. Graveside services were held in Woodlawn Cemetery here Thursday morning at 11:30 o'clock by Rev. B. T. Hurley, local Methodist minister.

## Principal Witness Offers a Jumbled Story Of Tragedy

**Inquest to Be Held Tonight At 8:00 O'Clock At Courthouse Here**

Making little progress and admitting they are somewhat baffled in advancing their investigation, county officers stated yesterday they would hold an inquest in the courthouse tonight at 8:00 of Wm. Robert Bowers, Pitt County farmer, who lost his life in a Roanoke River hunting lodge in Poplar Point early in the morning into the tragic death of April 19. Eight witnesses, William Ray Bowers, Joe Melton, Fate Gurganus, Otis Bullock, A. C. Currie, Latham Wynne and Bryant Wynne, have been summoned to testify before Coroner S. R. Biggs at the hearing.

During the meantime the officers are trying to piece together what evidence they can, late reports stating that the representatives of the law are finding it difficult to reconcile some of the evidence offered.

The officers were of the opinion that W. T. Currie, keeper, was not at the lodge when the small building was fired early in the morning of April 19. Later evidence indicates that it was possible for the man to have been there when the fire started, even though witnesses stated he was seen a mile or more away before the fire had gained much headway.

Questioned in the county jail over the week-end, Currie told a fantastic story, proving that he remembers little or nothing about the events leading up to the tragedy.

The following is about what Currie said when questioned Saturday: "We got up, prepared and ate breakfast. Mr. Bowers wanted some liquor and we went to Williamston and got a supply and continued to drink during the day. The lodge caught fire about 4:00 o'clock that afternoon and I ran to a logging camp. Mr. Wiley Burroughs Rogerson carried me to Williamston and placed me in jail."

Currie got his facts and time all mixed up. He could offer no details about how the fire started. Questioning persons at the logging camp, a mile or more from the lodge, officers were advised that Currie ran there almost out of breath and said that the lodge was burning.

The charred remains of the 70-year-old Pitt farmer were found about 8:30 o'clock that morning by his son, William Ray Bowers. It is fairly certain that the elderly man had been drinking, that he was unable to get out of the burning building. Witnesses said that they left the victim and Currie drunk in the lodge the night before.

No charges have been brought against anyone, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said this morning.

## Jamesville Names Its Town Officers

Attended by about 25 citizens, a nominating convention held in the school building there last Thursday night virtually settled Jamesville's town politics for another two years when Leslie W. Harrison was named for mayor, and Tom Gaines, James Long and Herbert Sexton were named for commissioners.

The list of nominees includes no names of the old official family, it was learned.

The ticket is subject to vote in the regular election scheduled for Tuesday, May 6.

If there is no independent ticket and the convention nominees pass the regular election test on May 6 they will succeed Garland Anderson, mayor, and J. G. Long, U. S. Hassell and Clyde Brown as commissioners.

A Corey served as chairman of the convention and C. B. Martin was its secretary.

## Stock Company To Construct Modern Movie House Here

**Plans Call For \$48,000.00 Structure Near Brown's Grocery Store**

Plans are just about complete for the construction of a theater here on Washington Street for the colored citizens of the town and community, according to unofficial but reliable information gained over the week-end. A stock company whose subscribers have not yet been made public, was formed a short time ago and a lot between the Smith Funeral Home and E. L. Brown's grocery has been purchased.

Architect's plans, calling for a building 110 feet long and forty feet wide, have been submitted and tentatively approved, it was learned. Representatives of the company were in Raleigh and Charlotte recently making arrangements for materials and equipment for the construction and operation of the movie house which, according to preliminary estimates, will cost approximately \$48,000.00.

Construction work on the building is scheduled to get underway within the next two weeks, and the project is to be completed on or about July 31, a representative of the company explaining that the completion date was a tentative one.

The building, seating approximately 550 persons, will be of modern construction.

A representative of the company, discussing the project, explained that the stockholders had realized for some time that the colored citizens of the town and community had long needed a place of amusement of their own, but that plans for a theater had been delayed on account of high building costs and the shortage of materials. Conditions are more favorable now, and the company plans to start and rush the project to completion, the representative added.

As far as it could be learned, no building permit has yet been issued for the construction of the theater.

## Plan Big Peanut Acreage In 1947

1947 peanut plantings indicated as 3,847,000 acres—3 percent less than 1946—according to Crop Reporting Board of Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its Prospective Planting Report for 1947...

Virginia-Carolina area expects little change—slight increases in Virginia and Tennessee offsetting a decrease in North Carolina. A 3 percent decline anticipated in Southeast due mostly to sharp acreage reductions in Alabama and some in Georgia and Mississippi with South Carolina and Florida planning moderate increases. Southwest expects 59,000 acre reduction in Texas...

partly offset by prospective increases in Louisiana and Oklahoma, picking and threshing estimates not to be made until August but on usual estimating basis, about 3,100,000 acres should be utilized for picking and threshing in 1947 with the picked and crushed production slightly more than two billion pounds, such a production, if realized, would be the sixth consecutive year of production exceeding two billion pounds.

## Foreign Students In United States

Of the 17,000 foreign students in American educational institutions, 3,133 are pursuing engineering courses, according to a roster published by the State department in Washington. There are 937 engineering students from nine Middle and Far East countries alone. They include twenty-nine from Greece, 178 Turkey, 287 India, forty-seven Egypt, thirty-seven Iran, eighteen Iraq, 300 China, thirty-eight the Philippines and three from Afghanistan. Among the students are 955 studying mechanical engineering, 706 civil engineering, 286 chemical engineering, 274 mining and metallurgical engineering and 263 electrical engineering.

## Jamesville Plant Reporting Small Catches Of Fish

**Third or Fourth Season the Fishery Has Had Little Success**

For the third or fourth straight season, the commercial fishery at Jamesville is experiencing little success in its operations. Reports received late Monday afternoon stated that the big seine was dipping up less than 100 herring at a haul and that only three rock were taken during the day's operations. Hardly more than three or four days of good fishing have been recorded so far this season, and the time for the spring fish run is rapidly drawing to a close. Ordinarily the season is scheduled to close on May 10 but it is possible that an extension will be granted. However, few fish are to be expected on or after that time.

No definite reason for the poor fishing season has been offered, but reports yesterday stated that the cold weather at that time is believed to have reduced the catches to a bare minimum.

Individual fishermen have met with little success in their operations so far this season, but they are making ready for a big rock season during the next two weeks or more.

While the catches have been limited, prices have held to a fairly high level. Monday's quotations listing herring on the battery at \$2 per hundred, rock, 30 cents a pound, and perch, 20 cents a pound. There were few fish being offered at that price, one report stating that nothing was offered except two fairly large German carp.

Notwithstanding the poor season as a whole, to date, fishing operations have not been without high spots. Using a shad net, Jennis Pierce and Earl Lambert last week dipped a 32 1-2 pound rock out of the river at Jamesville. The young men, working to save their net, and, incidentally to land their catch, battled the fish for a good ten minutes before landing him safely.

While quite a number of visitors have traveled to the Roanoke during the past few weeks to fish and get fish, the numbers have been somewhat limited as compared with past records.

## John J. Williams Dies In Hospital

John Jesse Williams, sawyer for the Williamston Lumber Company at its plant on the Washington Road, died suddenly last Thursday afternoon of a heart attack. Suffering the attack while at the post of duty, he fell unconscious and was removed to the hospital where he died a few minutes later.

The son of the late Lemuel and Lizzie Bonham Williams, he was born in Newell County on August 12, 1880. He had been employed by the local company hardly more than six weeks and was recognized as a valuable employee.

He was married to Miss Grace Russell and she survives.

The body was turned over to an Elizabeth City undertaker later that afternoon and was brought to the family home at 201 Fearing Street, Elizabeth City, where funeral services were conducted Friday afternoon. Interment was in Elizabeth City's Hollywood Cemetery.

## ROUND-UP

Local, county and state officers had their busiest period of the year last week when they rounded up and temporarily detained nineteen persons in the county house. Two of the victims, given a chance to redeem themselves, were charged with violating their paroles. Four were charged with drunken driving, eight with public drunkenness, two with assaults and one each with carrying a concealed weapon and with operating a motor vehicle while his driver's license was revoked.

Twelve of the nineteen were white, including several young men.

## Will Switch To Dial Telephones In June

**Laying New Cable Underground For System Expansion**

**Additional Lines to Provide For Better Rural And Toll Service**

The modernization program, calling for a general expansion of telephone service throughout this area, is advancing rapidly, and tentative plans call for a change from the operator to the automatic or dial system in early June, according to information released this week by W. T. Thornton, local manager of the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. No definite date for the switch-over can be determined, but the local manager explained that five workers, headed by Chief Engineer Hilton of the Automatic Electric Company, are well advanced with the task of installing the automatic equipment, including a six position board for handling long distance calls.

The telephone building on Smithwick Street has been remodeled and enlarged, the local company representative explaining that a few minor building details could not be completed until all the automatic equipment is installed.

Conduit, placed under ground here during last Christmas season, is being filled this week with cable, Manager Thornton explaining that the expansion program will provide approximately 600 lines for local use and a goodly number of additional circuits for long distance messages. Added toll circuits have already been built to surrounding towns and they will be hooked to the new lines being laid underground on Main and Washington Street here this week.

Its present system overtaxed, the company will soon be able to handle all demands for telephones and better service.

Reviewing briefly the expansion program, Mr. Thornton said that additional lines had been built to Windsor, Plymouth and Columbia for improved long distance service.

A completely expanded system is also being completed for the rural areas served by the Williamston exchange, the manager stating that possibly 125 rural telephones would be connected with the system within the next few weeks. Poles have been set for an expanded service in the Farm Life, Bear Grass and Smithwick-Griffins territories. Eight circuits are under construction for service in the Farm Life area where a goodly portion of the rural telephones are being located. The rural telephones will work automatically as well as those in town.

Automatic telephones have been installed here, but at the present time they have not been connected with the automatic equipment.

The effect of the new system will have on the number of switch board operating personnel could not be learned, but one report stated that all present employees would be retained.

Recently purchasing the Rober-

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## Farmers' Strike Closes Markets

Tobacco markets in Maryland were closed last week when farmers struck for higher prices. Mr. Jimmy Taylor, local tobaccoist associated with the LaPlata market, stating that tentative plans had been made for resuming the auction sales the middle of the latter part of this week.

Farmers, it was said, became angered and forced a suspension of sales when the price fell ten cents or more below the 70-cent record received a year ago. The general price average was reported last night at 50 cents for the sales handled the first few days the market operated last week.

Home for the week-end, Mr. Taylor returned to his market this afternoon.

## BOARD MEETING

Williamston's enlarged school committee will hold its first meeting following appointment the early part of this month in Attorney R. L. Coburn's office this evening, it was learned yesterday. Several business matters are tentatively scheduled for consideration, one report said.

No information has been released, but unofficial reports indicate that there have been some teacher resignations in the local school, and the board will consider applications.

Reports state that all the other school committeemen in the county met some time ago, perfected their organizations and already have made tentative plans for the new term.

## Member of Class of '24 Writes Letter to Oak City Seniors

**Howard F. Brown Regrets He'll Be Unable To Attend Meeting**

Writing from his adopted home in Waukegan, Illinois, under recent date, Howard F. Brown, county native and a member of the 1924 class of the Oak City High School, advised that he would be unable to attend a meeting of the alumni association recently organized by the 1947 senators.

His letter follows: "The invitation to attend your first Alumni Banquet on May 9th was greatly appreciated, and it is with deep regret that I will be unable to attend. Nothing would afford me greater pleasure, however, than to meet each of you, and the many other alumni who have gone before you. To see and talk over old times with my old class mates of '24, some I have seen only a few times since that memorable night when we sat on the stage of the auditorium awaiting the presentation of that long sought diploma for which we had worked so hard.

"There were only nine of us, three girls and six boys, an unusual combination to be sure. The girls, as I remember, were dressed in beautiful white dresses, and the boys 'duked' out in blue coats and white flannel trousers. The heat was terrific and the tension greater as we sat waiting to be called, and never will I forget as each of us arose our chairs followed. This brought a roar from the audience, but only a flash of embarrassment from a group of dignified seniors who were for once on their good behavior.

"I have long hoped that some day some graduating class would start an alumni association, and it pleases me greatly to know that you, the class of 1947, have taken the step. If organized and conducted properly it will mean a lot to your own satisfaction as well as a great contribution to the school and community in which you live, but with Mr. Ainsley to guide and direct you, you can't go wrong.

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## Critically Hurt In Auto Accident

L. H. Rawls, Oak City man, was critically hurt in an automobile accident on the Raleigh-Pittsboro Road the early part of last week, reports from a Raleigh hospital stating yesterday that he was getting along as well as could be expected.

Riding with two other friends, the used car dealer, is known to have suffered a broken neck, several fractured ribs and possibly a back injury. His condition was said to be so serious that a complete examination would have to wait possibly several more days.

The car went out of control, skidded quite a distance and then crashed against a telephone pole.

## Parents-Teachers In Last Meeting Of Current Term

**New Officers Elected Last Evening for the School Year of 1947-48**

Meeting in regular session at the grammar school last evening, the local parent-teacher association witnessed a very entertaining playlet staged by Miss Byrum's sixth grade, heard a few reports, elected new officers and completed a short but very successful year. The association attracted 427 members during the current year, and the group, numbering approximately 100 parents and interested patrons, was urged to continue its cooperation in the new year.

The organization is closing the year with a fairly healthy balance, the retiring treasurer, Miss Mary Whitley, reporting a total of \$169.56 in the bank plus \$113.70 raised by the civic organizations for playground equipment.

Presiding over the meeting, retiring president Hugh G. Horton, the first man to serve in that position here, called for special reports. Mrs. J. W. Watts, vice president, explained to the body that a special committee appeared before the county board of education at a recent meeting of that group and outlined the need for a new building to house classrooms, cafeteria, showers and band room. The board was also asked by the committee to cooperate with the town in the construction of paved streets and to near the school buildings. "We also called for a five-member local committee and got it, and we hope sometime to have a 'mama' numbered among the committee members," Mrs. Watts said.

Serving as chairman of a nominating committee, Miss Ruth Manning reported the committee action, and the nominees, H. P. Mobley, president; Mrs. I. M. Margolis, vice president; Mrs. Marvin Britton, treasurer, and Miss Estelle Crawford, secretary, were unanimously elected.

Asking to be heard, Rev. John L. Goff, speaking for the membership, expressed appreciation to the retiring officers for their efforts and the work they had handled during the term. The newly elected president made a few remarks and pleaded for the continued cooperation of the members, pledging in return, his best efforts in making the new year a successful one in the life of the organization.

## Badly Injured In Fall From Truck

Lynette (Squirrel) Coltrain, 13-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Coltrain of Griffins Township, was critically hurt in a fall from a pick-up truck in front of the Rufus Hardison home at...

Preliminary examinations made in the local hospital showed that her back was broken and that two other vertebrae were injured. The victim was removed in a Biggs ambulance to Duke hospital yesterday afternoon for treatment which will continue, it is thought, for several months.

Riding with several other young friends, the young girl lost her balance and tumbled out of the truck on the side to the dirt. The truck, driven by a young man named Lilley, was not traveling very fast, witnesses said.

## Purchases Local Furniture Store

Heilig-Meyers Company, operators of a number of furniture stores in this State, purchased the Wier Furniture Company on Washington Street here last week-end, and took over active management this morning. One of the partners was here for the transaction.

Mr. J. B. Bell, associated with the company for the past twenty-five years, has been named local manager for the company and he will enter upon his new duties tomorrow, coming here from the company's headquarters in Goldsboro.