

## New Town Board Buckles Down To Business Here Last Night

### Ask Resignations Of All Employees Effective June 30

### New Members Feel Their Way Along In Long Session; Tackle Problems

After subscribing to the oaths of office before Justice John L. Hassell, Williamston's new mayor, Robert Cowen, and new board of commissioners, G. H. Harrison, N. C. Green, K. D. Worrell, John Hatton Gurganus and Ben D. Courtney, last night in the first meeting of the new term buckled down to business without delay and discussed business matters and policies for three solid hours.

Pointing out that they were new and literally in the dark, the officials elected for the first time felt their way forward and grasped methods of procedure, making timely suggestions and entering freely into the discussions as they went along. While there was slight departure from the old plans of procedure, Mayor Cowen explained that it was the policy of the new majority to advance a radical program that it was the wish of all to work in the best interest of the town and all its people.

The meeting was quite harmonious in fact it was liked so well that a second round was called for the night of June 16 for a discussion of business.

While the meeting last evening was centered around a get-acquainted-with-the-facts program, the board took definite action in a number of matters, and took under advisement and for further study and consideration other requests.

The first motion of the term came when Commissioner Courtney moved to allow \$125 a month during July and August to the youth center. It drew a second from Commissioner Gurganus and the issue passed without delay.

A petition, carrying the names of a goodly number of colored citizens, asked for a street light at the corner of Hyman and Martin Streets, fire hydrants and sewer lines in that section near or back of Woodlawn Cemetery. The group also asked for better street maintenance and a strict enforcement of the beer laws. It was pointed out that certain materials were still scarce, that steps had been taken to designate the streets and open the way for postal delivery service. The signs, ordered since last September, are expected in about 30 days.

Pointing out that the town had been too lax in the past in its building restrictions, Mayor Cowen

## Discuss Plans For County Hospital At Board Meeting

Meeting with the Martin County commissioners Monday afternoon, five county doctors—J. S. Rhodes, senior and junior, Walter Ward Chas. I. Harris and J. T. Llewellyn—discussed plans for a county hospital. Advised by telephone that the State Medical Care Commission was preparing plans to be submitted to the United States Surgeon General when he visits this State the latter part of this month, the group delayed further action until those plans are revealed. However, it was quite evident that the commissioners as well as the doctors are interested in a hospital for the county, that they are ready to submit the proposal to a vote of the people if a cooperative venture is possible with the State and federal governments.

Asked to endorse Washington as a site for a regional hospital, the board delayed action on the request until it could be learned if the action would have any bearing on a county hospital for Martin. It is fairly certain that the county is not geographically located for the regional plant under the present set-up.

The commissioners, while holding forth until after 5:00 o'clock, transacted very little business, but they will come back on Friday of this week for a detailed study of budget figures.

A contract for an audit of the general county books was let to Frank E. Butler at \$500.

Irving Smith was reappointed as a member of the Martin County ABC Board for a three-year term beginning July 1, subject to the approval of the education board.

The board approved a project calling for 4,000 feet of paving to the North Carolina Pulp Company in the lower part of the county.

Tax relief orders in very small amounts were issued to Columbus Boston, L. Boston and Marina Sanders of Jamesville, Nellie Wynne of Robersonville and Isolen Meeks, Hubert and I. F. Roberson of Williamston for taxes listed in error over a six-year period.

## Wrecks In County During Week-end

### Pinned Under Car, Driver Painfully Hurt On Street Here Friday Night

One person was badly hurt and several others narrowly escaped injury in two automobile accidents in the county the latter part of last week.

W. H. Rawls, seaman first class, home on leave, was badly hurt when the car he was driving went out of control and turned over on Washington Street here last Friday night about 10:30 o'clock. Pinned under the overturned machine, Rawls, who lives near Williamston, was cut about the face and hip. He also was painfully bruised on his left leg and hip. Removed to the local hospital he was reported to be improving yesterday.

Said to have had about three beers, Rawls was driving into town when he claims he was forced off the street. His car, a 1934 model Ford, tore down a fairly sizable post in William Stokes' yard, plunged ahead and glared a telephone pole before turning over in a clump of bushes in a ditch a few feet away. Claude Thomas Rawls, a brother of the driver, was slightly bruised and checked, but did not need medical attention. Jesse Thomas Moore, riding with the Rawls boys, did not tarry long at the accident scene, but it was estimated that his eyes were fixed on the car as it was being turned. He was walking, "I was marching the man to Officer Paul Holliday," he said, declaring that he did not know he had hit the man until Officer Holliday came to his house.

Before Currie's release, his brother W. E. (Pope) Currie was in the county deacon, supposedly by the attacker's wife and a neighbor. It was said they had declared "Tony" talked too much.

During the meantime, officers had tightened their evidence against the accused man. It was reliably learned that Currie had been seen along the path just a short time before the attack, that he had a club, and explained that if that did not work, he had something else, flashing his light on a shot gun, nearby.

The accused man has been in the courts before, once in this county for shooting a man named Williams following an argument in a poker game, and once in Pitt County where he was sentenced to prison for robbery.

## Jamesville Man Was An Accident

### Glenn Currie Released Last Saturday Under Bond In Sum of \$200 Cash

Glenn Currie, young white man jailed last Wednesday for allegedly attacking William Ruffin, colored man, with a shot gun late on Sunday night, May 25, was released last Saturday morning under a \$200 cash bond. Bail was allowed after reports from the hospital where Ruffin was carried, stated that his condition was improving and that he would be able to return home shortly. Ruffin, with at least eighty small shot in one foot, was treated in a Williamston doctor's office and was later removed to the hospital when infection set in.

Currie, after somewhat of a fantastic fashion, admitted to Sheriff C. B. Roebuck in jail last Friday that he shot Ruffin, but claimed it was accidental. "You know I shot the man," Currie was quoted as saying, and then he advanced the fantastic story. "I was sitting at home with my wife when a man peeped into my window," Currie said. "I grabbed my gun, ran out and told him to stick his hands up. I was marching him down the much used path, a short-cut across a block in Jamesville, and as I was walking the narrow board across a ditch I slipped and fell and the gun fired

## Young Girls Attacked Here On Houghton Street Late Saturday

### Plan Construction Of Two Schools Without Contract

Considering three sets of bids too high, the Martin County Board of Education in session Monday decided to build two small school houses, a 4-room frame building at Jamesville, and a six-room frame unit at Everetts, without a contract. The superintendent was instructed to get bills of cost for lumber and start construction work as soon as possible. The action virtually rules out for the present, at least, all other projects included in a tentative expansion program.

The first of the bids received for the Everetts building almost a year ago called for an expenditure of about \$140,000. The second bids received showed a marked drop, and while the third set was still lower, the board was of the opinion that they were still too high. The lowest bid considered by the board this week was \$67,400 for general construction of the two buildings without heating, lighting or plumbing.

It was pointed out that no bond issue would be needed to finance the construction of the two buildings, that the projects could be financed from current funds with help from the commissioners. If the new plan of construction proves successful, other projects will be considered later, it was intimated.

Getting their time mixed up, members of Williamston's local committee did not appear before the board in the interest of an expansion program in the local school plant.

The board discussed its budget figures for the next fiscal year, and the estimate was approved by the county commissioners subject to a few minor changes. The tentative budget, calling for an increase to satisfy larger teacher salaries and current operating expense, provides for a 50-cent tax levy, one two cents above last year's budget requirements.

## Search Conducted By Officers Most Of Night For Man

### Louise Corey Grabbed Around Neck and Slapped by Attacker

Louise Corey, 14-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Corey, was attacked by a young Negro as she walked along South Houghton Street in front of the Carlyle Langley's home with her girl friend, Betty Rhodes Taylor, at 11:30 o'clock last Saturday night. She saved herself by screaming and tearing away from her assailant but not until he had squeezed her neck and struck her in the face either with his fist or open hand. While Miss Corey was struggling against the advances of her attacker, described as a "dude" wearing a two-toned shirt, her companion ran to the front door of a nearby home and called for help.

Apparently frightened by the young girl's screams, the attacker ran north on Houghton Street, passing Leggett's Lane, a little used thoroughfare, and turned down Marshall Avenue where he was seen by Mr. and Mrs. George Lee and Mrs. M. D. Wilson who were walking south on Houghton Street and by H. O. Peel who was just leaving the home of his brother on the avenue. No complete description of the attacker could be had, but it was agreed by those who saw him that he was wearing a two-toned shirt, and that he had a strong beer-wine odor on his breath.

When the girls got to their way home after leaving the movies at the Marco theater, the young girls heard the man walking fairly rapidly behind them, and they agreed that he would not molest them since there were two of them. A few seconds later the man grabbed his victim around the neck, and he struck her when she screamed. The print of the blow was left on the young girl's face which was sore the next day. It was believed that the victim struggled with her assailant for possibly a minute before tearing loose from him.

The police department was notified and officers, including members of the day force, highway patrolmen, the sheriff and quite a few citizens started an immediate search for the attacker. Several suspects were taken into custody and questioned, but they were released when they did not answer to the description offered by the attack victim. A colored man, believed to have been drinking, was seen on the streets with his shot gun after officers went to his home trailing a suspect. While feeling ran high, no trouble was encountered. Officers had the search well in hand and there

## Officers Baffled By Mysterious Holdup

### Strangers Pose AS FDI Agents And Enter Home

One of the most mysterious holdups ever recorded in the crime annals of this county and one that is really baffling officers was reported about 1:00 o'clock last Thursday morning when three strangers posed as Federal Bureau of Investigation officers and entered the home of Richard Manning, respected colored citizen and farmer living near here on the old Everetts Road.

Driving their car, a blue Plymouth, into the yard the three men got out after turning the machine around and went to the door and knocked. Answering the summons, Manning opened the door and was asked who lived there. Giving his name, Manning was told by the three men that it was the right place. Drawing their guns and flashing some kind of badges, two of them pushed their way into the hall and told Manning they were looking for a man by the name of Frank, the victim of the holdup telling officers that he was so excited he could not recall the last name. The two men explained that the man they were looking had murdered a woman and stole \$15,000 worth of jewelry.

Continuing into one of the rooms of the small home, the intruders happened to glance over the door and removed a gun from its rack, placing it in the hall where the third visitor maintained watch. The two men then started a minute search of the room, turning back floor rugs, dresser coverings, ransacking bureau drawers.

Spying the small iron safe, the intruders, unmasked and still holding to their pistols, directed the owner to open it. Manning admitted that he was unsuccessful in the first attempt to open the safe. He finally succeeded and when he pulled out the cash drawer he was certain that he was seeing the approximately \$150 there for the last time. The visitors examined the money and searched the money drawer, and after having him pull out all his papers they instructed him to put the money back and close the safe.

## Change To New Dial System On Thursday

### Phone Officials Plan To Be Here For Switch-Over

Following the installation of the most modern equipment during recent weeks, the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company will change its exchange here from the common battery system to automatic or dial service at 10 o'clock Thursday evening of this week, Manager W. E. Thornton announcing that the switch will take only a few minutes.

Special instructions have been referred to individual subscribers and no trouble is anticipated in effecting the change and maintaining smooth operations from the beginning.

All the subscribers will have to do is remove the small piece of cardboard from the dial after 10 o'clock Thursday night, crank up the gadget and let it go. Until then the subscribers will continue to use their telephones in the same old manner. When they start to make a call and hear the dial tone at or after the designated hour for the change, subscribers will throw away their old directories and consult the new ones now in the hands of the users.

While the change-over is to be handled after a formal fashion, the event will be limited to a very few spectators because of limited space in the office, it was explained. Prominent officials of the company, including John R. Porter, chairman of the company's board of directors, are planning to attend the ceremony along with a few special guests.

"We hope to hold open house for all subscribers and interested parties at a later date," Manager Thornton said, but until all construction work is completed it will be impossible to accommodate more than a few at a time, he explained.

The demonstration of the automatic system held in the lobby of the Virginia Electric and Power Company was witnessed by hundreds during recent weeks. But after seeing it, one could hardly figure out the working of the mechanism.

Preparatory to switching to the new system, the company has rebuilt its entire plant here at an estimated cost of about \$144,000. Preliminary plans were altered for the present when shipment of

## Open Swimming Pool Here Today

### Returns Home From Long Stay Over In Germany

Appointed manager by the town board last night, Miss Ruth Manning started making arrangements early this morning for the opening of the municipal swimming pool at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The pool will open from 10 a. m. to 12 noon, but not until after the close of the Bible school the latter part of next week, and from 2 to 6 p. m. and from 7:30 to 9 p. m. daily and from 2 to 6 p. m. on Sundays.

News travels fast, but rumors travel faster. When officers arrested a pocketbook thief here yesterday morning, it was rumored that the man who attacked Miss Louise Corey on Houghton Street last Saturday night had been arrested.

A short time later, press associations were calling the sheriff, explaining that the attacker had been arrested, that the police department would not reveal his name. Three calls were received by the officer in less than an hour. And to climax the whole affair, the Chicago Tribune called the Enterprise later in the afternoon and wanted to know all about the alleged crime and the mob lynching. So many calls were coming from the outside, that quite a few on the inside were about to believe that some one had been arrested and lynched. The rumor was without any foundation, and the reaction in press circles more than anything else reflects a mad trend toward things sensational whether founded or unfounded.

## Bible School Well Attended Monday

### Young Girl Tries To End Her Life

The Union Vacation Bible school started off with considerable enthusiasm in the Baptist Church Monday morning. There were 180 boys and girls along with 27 workers. These were divided into the following groups: Beginners, with 28 pupils, under the direction of Mrs. Ernest Ethridge, Mrs. Joseph Griffin, Mrs. O. G. Sutherland, Mrs. Richard Elliott, Mrs. Roy McClees, Miss Elizabeth Whitley and Miss Mary O'Neal Lindsley. Primaries, 54 pupils, under the direction of Mrs. Marvin Britton, Mrs. W. E. Thornton, Mrs. Gertrude McLawhorn, Mrs. Ruth Wheeler, Mrs. Velma Coburn, Miss Lilybet Muse, Miss Lola Peel, Miss Jean McLawhorn; Juniors, 58, under the direction of Mrs. W. H. Spell-er, Mrs. Floyd Williams, Mrs. John Hatton Gurganus, Mrs. R. Vernon Bunting and Miss Betsy Manning; Intermediates, 45, under Miss Patsy King, Mrs. A. R. White, Mrs. John W. Hardy and Rev. John L. Goff.

Despite the fact that many of the young people are being denied the privilege of attendance because of whooping cough the Junior and Intermediate departments are holding up to the records of previous years. The offering this year is being taken as a missionary project through the

## Makes Farewell Talk To Board

### Held For Theft Of Pocketbook

After administering the oath of office, first to Robert Cowen as mayor, and to G. H. Harrison, N. C. Green, K. W. Worrell, John Hatton Gurganus and Ben D. Courtney as members of Williamston's Board of Town Commissioners, Justice John L. Hassell, in his characteristic and able manner, explained that he would like to "sing his swan song." He congratulated the new mayor and commissioners and wished them success.

"I have been mayor for fourteen years and I had the cooperation and support of the old board. Fourteen years ago Williamston had 2,800 people. The 1940 census listed 3,966, and today I believe there are more than 5,000. It was good to be at the helm and observe the growth of our town. While I am retiring from politics I still have the interest of the town and people at heart," the retiring mayor said, adding that if he could be of any service he wanted the new mayor and the board to call on him.

Taking over, Mayor Robert Cowen expressed appreciation for the mayor's kind words, and went on to explain that he believed all the officials, new and old, had the best interests of the town at heart and that the matter of speech making would be dispensed with, "and let us get down to work," he said.

Jesse Jones, 13-year-old colored boy, was detained yesterday by local officers for the alleged theft of a pocketbook containing \$72 in cash from Francis H. Leggett, local fisherman. Going into the fisherman's shack near the river Sunday morning, Jones and his alleged accomplice, Levi Glenn Hill, slipped the pocketbook out of the man's pocket as he slept. When arrested early Monday morning, Jones had \$43.40 on his person and Hill agreed to make up the difference, one report said.

Jones was run down and caught near the depot by Deputy Buck Holloman after a spirited chase around a block. Immediately following the youth's arrest, reports got out that the man who attempted to assault a local girl on Houghton Street last Saturday night had been arrested. When the rumor got started, it gained momentum and just a few hours later the Chicago Tribune called The Enterprise to have the report verified.

Jones was turned over the juvenile authorities and he was transferred to the county home where he is to remain until his case can be handled after one fashion or another.

## Land Sales

Land sales for unpaid 1946 Martin County taxes were made by Tax Collector M. L. Peel at the courthouse door Monday of this week. Most of the sales were made to one county, meaning that the county will, if taxes aren't paid within a certain time, become the owner of the properties.

The unpaid list, numbering 169 accounts and amounting to \$1,402.42, compares with 177 unpaid accounts and a balance due of \$1,619.55 on June 1 of last year.

As of the first of this month, a total of \$6,889.89 was due the county in real and personal taxes, the collector declaring that the amount would be reduced to less than \$1,000 before he is through.

## Mayor Meets With Department Heads

### J. Thos. Bailey Died Last Night

Meeting with the heads of the various town departments, Mayor Robert Cowen is discussing today various policies and studying plans of operation. The town head was slated to meet with the head of the water and street departments this morning, and this evening at 6:00 o'clock a meeting is scheduled with the police chief and all members of the department.

Funeral services for John Thomas Bailey, 78, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Chas. Mizelle, near Williamston, last evening at 7:15 o'clock, will be held at the home Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Interment will follow in the Mobley Cemetery in Bear Grass Township.

## TRAVELS FAST

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## Young Girl Tries To End Her Life

After disappearing from her home in Oak City about 1:00 o'clock on the morning of May 24, Miss Irene Bunting, 19 years old, returned with Deputy Buck Holloman from Emporia, Virginia, last Friday and, according to reports reach here, tried to end her life by taking poison that night. She was removed to a Tarboro hospital where she was expected to recover.

Accompanied by Clara Jean Manning, 14 years old, Miss Bunting, according to information given officers, caught a ride with a stranger to Emporia on the 24th, the two traveling by bus from there to Richmond. They returned to Emporia where they were to accept employment in the telephone office when relatives got in touch with them and requested their return.

It was reported that two young boys went to Virginia to bring the girls home, but the girls would not return with them.

## ROUND-UP

Fourteen persons were arrested and jailed here over the week-end, the number not including several suspects in the street attack here Saturday night. And the fairly numerous arrests do not reflect in detail the serious trend crime is taking, officers explaining that much of the violations are traceable to wine and beer joints and contemptible rascality on the part of an apparently increasing number of thoughtless people.

Seven of those jailed were booked for public drunkenness, two for forgery, two for operating motor vehicles without drivers' licenses, and one each for assault, assault with deadly weapon and disorderly conduct.

Two of the fourteen were white and the ages of the group ranged from 19 to 47 years.

The police department was notified and officers, including members of the day force, highway patrolmen, the sheriff and quite a few citizens started an immediate search for the attacker. Several suspects were taken into custody and questioned, but they were released when they did not answer to the description offered by the attack victim. A colored man, believed to have been drinking, was seen on the streets with his shot gun after officers went to his home trailing a suspect. While feeling ran high, no trouble was encountered. Officers had the search well in hand and there