

Young Man Loses Life By Drowning Sunday Afternoon

Clayton Roberson Funeral At Home Near Here This Afternoon

Clayton Roberson, 17 years old, was accidentally drowned in the run of the old Daniel and Staton or Big Mill pond about 75 yards from the highway bridge last Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. A young colored boy was drowned almost at the same spot about two months ago, and the tragedy was the second to strike in the young man's family, the father, Eli Albert Roberson, having lost his life in an automobile accident at Spring Green Church in October, 1940.

In the company of a brother, Garland, and several others, the young man left his home near Williamston on the Everett Highway and went to the creek to go swimming. He jumped into the pond and was swimming across when something went wrong with him. His brother answered his call for help and as soon as he reached him, Clayton caught him around the body. They were within ten feet of the bank when the current drew them back into the stream, and Garland, seeing that both were about to drown, broke loose just as he was about to be carried down for the third time. He was barely able to save himself and was exhausted when he reached the bank.

A call for help was made and officers, including highway patrolmen, went there. Special hooks were radioed for and were delivered from Washington by Patrolman Trippe. During the meantime, swimmers tried to locate the body, and several dived in with their clothes on in an effort to rescue the boy. Chas. Hines dived down and found the body but he could not raise it. The hooks were put into use a short time later and the body was lifted from the nearly 20 feet of water about one hour and ten minutes after the boy went down.

His brothers and others applied artificial respiration for an hour and thirty-five minutes in a futile effort to revive him. Investigating the drowning, Coroner S. R. Biggs ruled that it was accidental and that no inquest was necessary.

The son of Mrs. Maggie Bland Roberson and the late Eli Albert Roberson, he was born on the Whitford farm in Robersonville Township on August 7, 1930. Following the death of his father, the family moved to the John Daniel Biggs farm on the old Williamston-Bear Grass Road and located a year later on the Smith farm near Williamston.

He attended the Williamston schools until the early part of the war when he found it necessary to remain at home and help his widowed mother while other brothers were in the service. The young man was a willing and hard worker and had many friends.

Surviving besides his mother (Continued on page eight)

Main Street Home Damaged By Fire

Starting when an oil stove used for heating water went out of control, fire caused right much damage to the home of Mrs. W. A. James on West Main Street here early last Sunday afternoon. No official estimate could be had immediately, but the fire and smoke damage will possibly exceed \$400, according to one report.

Mrs. James was away from home at the time, but Mrs. Fannie Gardner was there at the time. Working in the kitchen at the time, Mrs. Gardner did not discover the fire until it had gained right much headway, neighbors rushing to the home when they saw smoke coming through the attic ventilators. The fire had burned through the ceiling and about half way through the rafters by that time, but the neighbors held it in check fairly well until the fire department was called. A large hose line was laid and the fire was brought under control in a short time after the connection was completed.

Budget Proving Big Problem For Board

Adopted Several Ordinances Last Night at Meeting

Budget \$6,000 Out of Line With The Prevailing Tax Rate Here

Williamston's town authorities bumped into one of their biggest and without doubt the most perplexing problems of the season last night when they worked to reconcile the new fiscal year budget to the prevailing tax rate of \$2. After wrestling with the problem until after 11 o'clock, the commissioners tucked it away until Thursday evening of this week when they are slated to give it more consideration and possibly adopt a budget estimate and determine a tax rate.

Starting the year off with about \$20,000 less in the treasury than there was a year ago, the commissioners are finding it difficult to make up for the difference. The economy axe was applied last night, and after that was done the budget was \$6,000 in excess of anticipated revenue, including that based on a \$2 tax rate. The budget figures are in a state of change just now, but the estimate is less than the one a year ago.

It appears that the authorities have three lines of approach in effecting a solution to the problem. They'll have to wield the old economy axe after a really reckless fashion, or they'll have to adopt a Schedule B or privilege license tax, or they'll have to increase the tax rate from \$2 to about \$2.15 per \$100 assessed property valuation.

It is fairly certain that a conservative policy will be the order of the year when it comes to permanent improvement and a general expansion program.

No action on the proposed budget will be taken until the problem has been examined from every possible angle, Mayor Robt. Cowen stating that the board will make every effort to pursue the course most advantageous to the town and the taxpayers.

The meeting last night adopted several ordinances dealing with traffic regulations, sidewalk congregations, profanity, operation of nickelodeons after certain hours and allied problems. The ordinances will be reviewed in a later edition.

A license was granted George (Continued on page three)

Plow Fire Lanes In Martin County

"Strange as it may seem," reports Marvin H. Leggett, Martin County Forest Warden, "the recent rains have hampered the efforts of N. C. Forest Service crews towards control of forest fire danger in Martin County." Warden Leggett has been supervising crews plowing fire lanes in the southern section of the County but the recent rains have flooded the low areas making it impossible to operate the heavy Forest Service equipment.

About a hundred miles of fire lanes have been plowed in Martin County by the N. C. Forest Service and Warden Leggett hopes to add several hundred more miles this summer but unless the low areas dry out the goal will not be reached within the next several months, says Leggett.

Fire lanes which were plowed last year by Forest Service crews should be checked over by land owners and maintained with farm tractors and disc plows. Warden Leggett pointed out that fire lanes would lose much of their value unless maintenance work was done on them as grass and other vegetation soon cover the bare soil and make it possible for fires to cross the lanes.

Warden Leggett said that he would be glad to advise landowners on the proper method of maintaining these lanes.

SLEEPING SICKNESS

At least seven work animals have contracted sleeping sickness and died in this county during the past week or two, it was learned this week from Dr. W. F. Coppage. While there is no cure for the rather unusual disease, it can be prevented by vaccination, it was pointed out, and quite a few farmers in the Jamesville-Griffins sections where the disease has been centered for the most part are having their horses and mules vaccinated, it was learned.

Clinics for vaccinations were held some months ago and many work animals were vaccinated against the disease at that time.

Legion Installs New Officers At Meet Last Night

State Commander Is In Charge Of Ceremony; Speaks To Members

In a special ceremony and with State Commander Ray Galloway of Wilmington in charge, the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion installed its new officers for the coming year. Commander Galloway addressed the group and a Dutch supper was enjoyed.

William W. Gurganus, veteran of World War II was installed as commander of the post, and he will be assisted by at least four other veterans. In addition to the older vets. One of the electees, G. C. Ray, died following his election in June, and the position, sergeant-at-arms, was filled by R. A. Taylor. In payment of the dues for the meeting read, "He was a quiet and good man who endeared himself to the Legion and its members."

Others installed at the meeting last evening include:

John A. Ward, 1st vice commander; Joseph L. (Jack) Edmundson, 2nd vice commander; R. G. Sexton, 3rd vice commander; W. B. (Hack) Gaylor, adjutant and finance officer; Rev. John W. Hardy, chaplain; N. K. Harrison, service officer; H. L. Swain, Americanism officer; Rev. John W. Hardy, child welfare officer; Herbert Whitley, employ-

(Continued on page eight)

Asks Large Cut In Peanut Acres

In order to receive a support price of 90 percent of parity as of July 15 for 1948-crop peanuts, producers must vote at a referendum to be held before December 15, 1947, to reduce the nation's 1948 peanut acreage to about 75 percent of that planted in 1947, according to Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson's recent proclamation establishing 760,000 tons as the 1948-crop peanut marketing quota. Secretary Anderson's proclamation was occasioned by the provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 which requires that unless the supply of peanuts for edible products and vegetable oils is below domestic demands and probable exports, marketing quotas must be established.

The 760,000 ton figure was determined by analyzing the actual disappearance of peanuts cleaned and shelled during the last five years, which average 673,000 tons farmers' stock and the prospective disappearance from the 1947-48 crops which is estimated at 579,000 tons. It also includes an estimated tonnage allowed for seed, feed, and home use on farms and for damaged nuts.

To produce the 1947 marketing quota, the 3,136,000 acreage planted in 1947 would be reduced to 2,324,109 in 1948, based on a yield of 654 pounds per acre.

Quarter Million Dollar Debt Is Shown By Audit

Williamston's Municipal Set-up Is Rated \$600,000 Going Concern

Despite a quarter-million dollar bonded debt—\$245,500.00, to be exact—Williamston's financial condition is rated good, according to comments made following the receipt of the annual audit a few days ago. It is a creeping schedule, to be sure, and one burdened with high interest rates invoked back in the late teen and early twenties and thirties, but the town is whittling down the principal at the average rate of about \$16,500 each year, plus \$11,755.00 annual interest.

All told, the town has issued a total of \$459,500.00 in bonds since June 1, 1919, including \$80,500 refunding bonds. The nearly half-million dollar debt has been whittled down to \$245,500, the last of which falls due on April 1, 1965. However, the greater portion of the debt will have been retired by 1958, leaving \$23,000 due during the following seven years.

The \$225,000 light, water and sewer bonds issued in June, 1919, and May, 1920, still stalk the town's economy, the 6 percent interest rate on the uncallable bonds keeping the treasury's nose to the proverbial grindstone. A street improvement program back in 1930 added \$90,000 to the debt and at six percent interest. In early March, 1941, the public improvement program was launched, calling for a \$35,000 bond issue, but the interest rate was fixed at 4 percent. That was the last of the regular bond issues. Later in 1941 the town called in \$71,500 in bonds and refunded them at 3 1/2 percent, and another \$13,000 at 3 1/4 percent.

The bond schedule, including interest, calls for \$28,255.00 during the next fiscal year. Of the \$245,500 debt outstanding as of last June 30, \$111,000 is being brought over from the light, water and sewer bonds issued in 1919 and 1920. On an average the

town is paying \$2,400.00 interest annually on these particular bonds which are not callable and which will continue to demand straight six percent interest.

To show for the bonded debt and improvement made from current funds the town has fixed properties valued at \$554,743.24. The audit lists the fixed property values, as follows:

Fire department, engines and equipment, \$27,700.79; streets, sidewalks and equipment, \$192,368.28; water plant, lines, sewer lines and equipment, \$176,963.67; City hall, \$7,756.28; general administration improvements, \$87,445.52; miscellaneous improvements, \$26,378.92; swimming pool, \$10,801.77; side track, railway, \$441.87; land, \$232.92; cemetery, \$706; and public improvements, \$24,007.22.

Proposed Budget For Jamesville

A budget, calling for a \$6,197.33 business for the 1947-48 fiscal year, is being proposed by Jamesville's governing officials, according to Treasurer James W. Long. Starting out with a cash balance of \$3,079.33 as of July 1, 1947, the town is anticipating \$1,600 as its share of profits from liquor store sales and expects to collect \$1,500 in ad valorem taxes. The assessed property valuation for tax purposes has been fixed at \$234,137.00, the board adopting a tentative rate of 75 cents per hundred.

The board, composed of new members, is anticipating a fairly extensive street improvement and maintenance program, the budget tentatively setting aside \$3,922.33 for work in that department. Law enforcement, it is estimated, will cost \$1,200, and \$400 will finance street lighting. The board is contemplating the installation of caution lights at several highway and street lighting. The board is contemplating \$175 to finance the safety project. Miscellaneous items and incidentals will cost approximately \$400 during the current fiscal year.

Williamston Package Company Plant Closed Down By Strike

Three White Men Alleged To Have Turned Men Back

Apparent That All Efforts To Avoid Labor Trouble Had Not Been Made

The Williamston Package Manufacturing Company plant was closed down by a strike unexpectedly this morning when three strange white men took a stand near the mill entrance and allegedly advised, directly or indirectly, the employees not to go to work. According to a direct report from one of the union representatives only yesterday afternoon, the company had not refused to negotiate with its employees, and it is fairly apparent that all efforts to avoid labor trouble had not been exhausted.

The interruption is apparently the result of a clandestine meeting held in the Negro Methodist church on Rhodes Street here last night, unofficial reports declaring that the plant of the Williamston Lumber Company is next on the strike list with a shut-down tentatively scheduled for tomorrow.

The action, bordering on strong-arm tactics and contrary to statements made by a union representative only a short time before the meeting last night, is believed to be bordering on a flagrant violation of the labor laws. It is admitted that the meaning of the labor laws is not known any too well here, the action fomenting the strike came just a few days after responsible labor leaders had warned against strikes. Last week in Washington, D. C., the executive council of a regional labor organization issued a directive to all its lodges or locals:

"Regardless of circumstances, no strikes or stoppages of work must occur..."

Other than that the strike here this morning was maneuvered without any overt trouble, few details can be learned. Labor leader (Continued on page eight)

To Make X-Rays of Public Employees

By John W. Williams County Health Officer

The Martin County Board of Health at its past meeting passed an order requiring all the teachers, janitors, bus drivers and of course food handlers to have an X-Ray picture of their chest on file at the Health Department before the first salary checks are drawn.

The Martin County Health Department is thoroughly equipped to do the work for this group of employees absolutely free. It will not only benefit in the school room but be a great consolation to the individual. Beginning August 11 some one qualified to do this work will be in the Health Department from 9 to 4:30 every day, except Saturday when the office closes at 12 noon. Pictures will be forwarded to specialists at Sanatorium, interpreted, and returned to us for filing. If a private physician does the work, the film must be sent to the department for filing.

The office can take about 30 pictures a day and there are 225 employees, therefore, appointments must be made so that the work can be scheduled throughout the day and no one will have to wait.

The Martin County Tuberculosis Association made this work possible by buying the films.

The mass X-Raying which will take pictures of every one living in Martin County will be here in January.

It is hoped that all the school workers who live in the country will begin now to ask for appointments, so there will be no rush when outsiders move in.

Prices On Border Markets Do Not Come Up To Claims

There is an apparent discrepancy in reports on prices coming from the Border tobacco markets, according to direct information reaching here last week-end. The prices simply are not measuring up to the reported claims, impartial observers who visited the markets in person said following their return here.

In the first place, the average received by the growers on opening day was apparently nearer \$46 per hundred pounds than the \$50 reported. Tobacco was selling from \$2 to \$60, the personal observers declaring that the highest piles they saw sold brought \$63 and the purchases were made by the warehouses. No \$68 piles were seen, and the apparent top for the companies was \$59, an occasional pile running up to \$60 per hundred.

The medium grades were said to be selling very well, but the fancy types were not bringing fancy prices, and the poor quality grades found little favor in front of the companies.

One observer said he saw a company buyer bid \$4 on one pile, that the Stabilization Corporation stepped in and took it for \$24.

The direct reports declared that prices on at least three of the Border markets were ranging from \$5 to \$6 per hundred pounds below last year's prices.

The crop is unusually late on the Border, possibly as late as the crop in this county, and very little tobacco was offered on most of the markets last Thursday and Friday.

Four Stills Are Wrecked and Four Persons Arrested

Sixteen Stills Captured By Enforcement Group During July

Following up an active work during the month of July, law enforcement officers and others enforced a concerted drive against illicit manufacturers and alleged dealers in the nefarious business during the early days of August. Four stills were wrecked and four persons were arrested in recent raids, one of the trips netting about 176 gallons of white liquor.

In the last two days of July, Officer J. H. Roebuck and his assistant, Deputy Roy Peck wrecked two plants. One of them, located in the Stingy Point section of Hamilton Township, was equipped with a 50-gallon capacity oil drum and two 50-gallon fermenters. No beer was found there.

Raiding along the Martin-Beaufort boundary on July 31, the officers wrecked a 150-gallon capacity wood still, six 50-gallon fermenters and poured out 200 gallons of sugar beer and eight gallons of liquor.

On Sunday, August 3, the officers switched over to the retail end of the business. Henry Strickland was detained and charged with the possession of one-half pint of illicit liquor. He was walking along a country road when arrested and was booked for trial in the county court this week.

Joining Beaufort County ABC officers last Thursday, officers from this county raided in Beaufort and wrecked two stills. One plant was equipped with a 100-gallon capacity fuel tank which was used for a still. No beer was found. At the second plant raiding that same day, the officers wrecked a 200-gallon capacity (Continued on page eight)

Arrested Sunday For Old Crime

Mack Peterson, colored man, charged with the theft of \$700 in hard-earned cash from Willie Faulk here in June, 1945, was arrested near Williamston on Highway No. 64 last Sunday afternoon by Patrolman W. E. Saunders and Officer Chas. Moore.

After the alleged theft, Peterson left this section and is said to have worked in Norfolk for some time, later going to Mt. Olive.

Further Decrease In Foreign Sales Of Leaf Tobaccos

Export Loss Expected To Move From One-Third To Fifty Percent

Although tobacco prices continue to hold up to fairly high levels in Georgia and on the Border markets, the outlook for flue-cured tobacco in the foreign or British markets is not at all encouraging, according to late reports coming from London. Already cut by one-third, exports to Britain are now likely to be reduced to fifty percent of the 1946 deliveries.

This drastic curtailment would be the result of Great Britain's stringent efforts to maintain its fast-diminishing dollar reserves. In outlining plans to invoke government powers similar to those used during World War II, Prime Minister Atlee did not specifically mention tobacco in his speech to the House of Commons yesterday.

But it was learned from Washington sources that the U. K.'s rigid dollar conservation program is likely to force its purchases of U. S. tobacco considerably below the 25 percent cut objective that the British Labor government had when it imposed new additional import duties of approximately 50 percent on tobacco some four months ago.

No one knows just how much British buying of American tobacco will be reduced in 1947, because of several intangible factors involved. And all government experts' predictions, for that attribution. But there would appear to be ample basis for the view that U. S. exports to the U. K. may shrink in half this year.

To begin with, tobacco consumption in the United Kingdom under its already-in-effect pioneer import duty program has probably fallen below the 1946 rate by "between one-fourth and one-third," according to a cable from London received today by Hugh Taylor of the Agriculture Department's office of Foreign Agriculture Relations.

And the cable—which brought the first official news on Britain's new curtailment plan—also revealed that:

1. The Labor government is considering invoking the wartime emergency measure of partial cigarette rationing by means of controlling deliveries to distributors.

2. British cigarette manufacturers now anticipate allocation of leaf tobacco below the requirements of present consumption. "Thus consumption may be further reduced at the manufacturing level.

3. "Consumption of leaf next year (the 1947-48 season) will be in part at expense of stocks." This indicates clearly that the U. K. intends to go into tobacco stockpiles, which are currently at the low peacetime level of about 379 million pounds (weight). (Of this 280 million pounds is U. S. flue-cured.) Such a stockpile is a 14-month supply at the current consumption rate. Before World War (Continued on page eight)

Send Notices To County Taxpayers

Notices of taxes due Martin County for the current fiscal year are going out this week to 7,933 taxpayers. Collector M. L. Peel placed the first batch of notices in the mail Monday and the last batch is going out Wednesday. The notices are due to reach the hands of 4,865 individual white taxpayers, 3,045 individual colored taxpayers and 23 corporations. The individual property owners are listed by townships as follows, the first figures representing the white and the second, the colored taxpayers:

Bear Grass, 363 and 98; Cross Roads, 326 and 110; Griffins, 337 and 109; Goose Nest, 417 and 395; Hamilton, 348 and 329; Jamesville, 538 and 351; Poplar Point, 152 and 62; Robersonville, 891 and 639; Williams, 201 and 127; Williams-ton, 1,267 and 835.

The tax levy this year is about \$225,000 or a few more thousand than it was last year.

RAINFALL

The month of July is consistently leaning toward the wet side, a review of the rainfall as recorded by the gauge on Roanoke River here showing that over eight inches of rain have fallen in each July for three successive years. Last month 8.30 inches fell as compared with 8.20 inches in July, 1945. Just a moderate amount of rain fell in July, 1944, but in 1943 8.49 inches fell in July.

Starting on the seventh of last month, rain fell for thirteen straight days, the climax coming on the 8th when 2.52 inches of rain fell.

Superintendent For VEP Here

Robert Palmer Monteith, a native of Low Moor, Va., and an employee of the Virginia Electric and Power Company in the Richmond offices for several years, was recently named superintendent of the company's Albemarle District with headquarters in Richmond.

The young man is looking for a home or an apartment for Mrs. Monteith and their five-year-old daughter.

A graduate of VPI with the class of 1935, Mr. Monteith entered the service of Virginia Public Service Company and was stationed in South Boston for almost two years before going with VEPCO for work in its distribution engineering department in Richmond. He was transferred to Roanoke Rapids in September, 1939, going in June, 1942, to Portsmouth to assist the company in serving the greatly expanded war industries in that area until November of that year when he entered the armed forces. After a year of intensive study in radar at Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he was transferred to the Pacific theater where he served two years. Following his release from the Navy in December, 1945, he returned to VEPCO and was in the company's office in Richmond until he was transferred to Williamston a few days ago to succeed Sam Woolford who is now manager of this, the Albemarle District.

County Negro Farmers Plan To Attend Meeting

Several Martin County Negro farmers are planning to attend the 25th annual State Conference of Negro Farmers and Homemakers at A. and T. College in Greensboro on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week.