

## Williamston Tobacco Market Ready For Opening August 25th

### Several Highway Wrecks Reported In Martin County

#### Several Persons Have Very Narrow Escapes: Damage Reasonably Light

One person was badly hurt and several others remarkably escaped with their lives in a series of automobile accidents reported on the highways in this county last week-end. Property damage was described by Patrolman W. E. Saunders as reasonably light.

The first in the series of wrecks was reported on the Bear Grass-Greenville road last Saturday morning when Jimmy Mitchell lost control of his 1940 Mercury on a curve in the first road and flipped away about twenty feet of wire fencing. No one was hurt and damage was slight, according to Patrolman Saunders who made the investigation.

Driving between Everetts and Robersonville during the heavy rain last Sunday evening at 8:30 o'clock, Raymond Purvis of Hassell lost control of his 1938 Chevrolet and the rear end skidded and crashed into a 1947 Buick being driven by Ernest R. Swain, 508 Milton Avenue, Durham. Purvis ran off the road and when he came back he was driving on the back of the Durham car.

Swain was driving on the highway when he was struck by the Buick. The Buick was driven home on the Washington highway when his car was sideswiped by another driven by Jesse Bland of near Robersonville. The Bland car did not stop and Griffin turned around and trailed it for about three miles before overtaking Bland and his companion, S. T. Brown. The two men stopped, got out, ripped off the state license tag, got back into the car and continued. Griffin continued to follow them until they reached Plymouth where Bland was reported to have been arrested and charged with drunken driving.

Investigating the minor accident about five miles out on the Washington highway, Patrolman W. E. Saunders yesterday lodged a hit-and-run charge against Bland.

### Big Rain Falls In Area Sunday

One of the largest rains falling in this section in several months was reported last Sunday evening. Hugh Spruill, keeper of the official gauge at the river here, said that 2.62 inches of rain fell in a little over two hours. The rain was nine-hundredths of an inch greater than the fall reported last July 8 and boosted the total precipitation for the first eighteen days of August to 4.32 inches.

Traffic was blocked on the highways by the heavy downpour and water covered the highways in places. About twelve inches of water stood on Church Street here for an hour or more and offices back of the Davis Pharmacy were flooded.

### Officers Raid County Stills

Assisted by federal agents working out of Elizabeth City, County ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel wrecked two stills last Friday.

The first of the two illicit distilleries, a 200-gallon capacity submarine type still, was wrecked along the Griffins Township-Beaufort County boundary. The officers poured out 500 gallons of sugar beer.

The second plant, a 250-gallon capacity copper kettle and three fermenters, was torn down in Bear Grass Township where the officers poured out 100 gallons of sugar beer.

### Mr. N. T. Tice Continues Quite Ill At His Home

Suffering a relapse last Saturday, Mr. N. T. Tice, well-known farmer and citizen of Griffins Township, continues quite ill at his home there, according to last reports reaching here. His condition, serious for some time, was said to be gradually weakening.

### Hog Thieves Strike Again In County Friday Evening

Striking for the sixth or seventh time in this county during recent weeks, hog thieves killed and carried away several pigs from Farmer A. Z. Clark's pasture just off U. S. Highway 64 near Robersonville sometime during last Friday night.

Employing unusually brutal tactics, the thieves are believed to have killed and carried away four pigs, each weighing around 125 pounds. Another pig was attacked and left half alive with his back split open. The raid, handled in about the same fashion as other recent raids were handled, was the sixth reported along U. S. Highway 64, officers stating that one or two other hog thefts had been reported in other sections of

### Operators Of The Planters And Roanoke-Dixie Warehouses



Adding two new and hustling members to the operating personnel, the Planters and Roanoke-Dixie Warehouses here are in perfect line for a great marketing season beginning next Monday. Pictured above, left to right, are the operators of the two large warehouses: J. Edward

Corey, Carlyle Langley, Urbin and J. Rossell Rogers, the new firm members, and John Gurkin. These men have enlarged the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse this year and are ready and prepared to serve an ever-increasing patronage.

### Operators Of The Carolina And Farmers Warehouses



Returning to the helm at their same old stands, operators of the Carolina and Farmers Warehouses are all set for the opening of the 1947 tobacco marketing season

next Monday. Pictured above are the operators-owners of the two large houses: left to right, S. Claed Griffin, Leman Barnhill, Elmo Lilley and Jimmy Taylor.

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### Principals Hold County Meeting

Principals of Martin County Elementary and High Schools met in the commissioners' room in the courthouse on Wednesday, August 13, to discuss and plan for the administration of the schools during the 1947-1948 school term. Superintendent J. C. Manning presided.

The morning session included informal discussions of state regulations regarding textbooks, transportation, attendance, instructional supplies, statistical reports, health, state and local budgets, the status of teachers, and the instructional program of the elementary school.

During the afternoon session principals of the high schools discussed problems more directly affecting the high schools. Uniformity of policies and practices and the raising of standards in the instructional program in both elementary and high schools were named as outstanding needs. Plans for attempting to meet

### John A. Manning, Well-Known To Thousands Of Farmers In This And Adjoining Counties, Is Supervising Sales On The Williamston Tobacco Market This Season. A Farmer And A Man Who Has Proven In Past Years That He Is A Farmer's Friend, Mr. Manning Is Certain To Play A Big Part In Building Up The Market And Working For The Advantage Of His Patrons.

A log tobacco barn, belonging to Lula Corey, burned in Griffins Township last week.

Equipped with regular furnaces and fired by wood, the barn is the tenth to burn in this county so far during the current season. It was the first barn loss reported in Griffins this season.

Farmers are asked to report barn losses to the office of the county agent.

### Conditions Call For An Increase In Tax Revenues

A \$32,000 cash balance materially reduced by costs for two new wells and with an urgent need for a new and larger water storage tank, Williamston's town authorities in special meeting last Thursday night discussed every available revenue source, but delayed final rate action pending the holding of a public hearing for a discussion of the various plans proposed for raising badly needed revenue.

The hearing will be held at a special meeting of the commissioners on Wednesday evening, August 27, at 8:00 o'clock, and the public is invited to attend and discuss the problem and offer suggestions.

Budget figures, amounting to approximately \$115,000 for the current fiscal year, have been trimmed "to the bone," Mayor Robert Cowen explains. The estimate, as it now stands will wipe out a \$9,000 cash balance and does not take into consideration any expansion projects of the cost of a new and larger water tank now badly needed.

The officials discussed several plans for raising the badly needed revenue, but decided to hear from any citizens who desire to be heard before taking final action, looking to the adoption of the new budget.

One of the plans calls for the introduction of schedule B licenses or privilege taxes on a town-

### To Discuss Budget At Public Hearing

#### SUPERVISOR



John A. Manning, well-known to thousands of farmers in this and adjoining counties, is supervising sales on the Williamston Tobacco Market this season. A farmer and a man who has proven in past years that he is a farmer's friend, Mr. Manning is certain to play a big part in building up the market and working for the advantage of his patrons.

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### David Etheridge Died At Home In County Sunday

Funeral Services Conducted Monday For Prominent Farmer-Citizen

David W. Etheridge, prominent Martin County citizen-farmer, died at his home near Hassell Sunday morning at 2:35 o'clock following months of declining health. Suffering a stroke of paralysis about a year ago, Mr. Etheridge had been an invalid for some time.

He was up for short intervals until about ten days ago when he was stricken with pneumonia. His condition had been critical since that time and the end was not unexpected.

A native of Martin County, Mr. Etheridge was 62 years old. He was born near Hassell and lived and farmed in that section all his life. He was a successful farmer and a leading citizen in his community, liberally supporting worthy ideals and undertakings.

He was first married to Miss Lucy Rawls, and four sons, J. D., T. E., J. C. and W. J. Etheridge, all of Hassell, and three daughters, Mrs. I. W. Woolard of Wilson, Mrs. L. A. McLawhorn of Bethel, and Miss Hazel Steen Etheridge of Hassell, survive the union. Also surviving are three sisters, Mrs. J. T. Savage of Columbia, S. C., Mrs. Earl D. Williams of Palmyra and Mrs. Lewis Strickland, Sr., of Scotland Neck, and one brother, K. B. Etheridge of Hamilton and eleven grandchildren. His second marriage was to Mrs. Hattie Bailey of Robersonville.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. Jas. M. Perry, Robersonville minister, and Rev. E. A. Purvis, Gold Point pastor. Interment was in the Hamilton Cemetery.

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Public Invited To Discuss Various Plans For Adding To Income

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### To Adopt New System For Marketing Tobacco Here

Acting to offer the farmer a better plan for marketing his tobacco, Williamston warehousemen have completed arrangements for "booking" tobacco this season.

Heretofore, the farmer found it necessary to place his tobacco on the floor as the space was made available, and there were periods during the peak of the marketing season that the leaf remained on the warehouse floors as long as a week or more. Much tobacco was damaged during the long wait, it was pointed out. The plan of first come, first served aggravated existing confusion and the farmer felt that he must go ahead and place his tobacco on the floor even though he knew it would be several days or a week before it could be sold.

Under the new plan, the warehousemen will book space in ord-

### Changes Announced In Market Personnel

#### WELCOME

Extending a welcome to the farmers of this section to market their tobacco in Williamston, Mayor Robert Cowen said today:

"Once again the combined citizenry of Williamston takes great pleasure in welcoming farmers, tobaccoists and other friends to the town. For 45 consecutive years, our tobacco market has served the farmers of this section, and it is with pleasure that I point out that at no time has more been done by the market operators to prepare for a great marketing season.

"With the knowledge that Williamston has comparable advantages to offer, I earnestly solicit, on behalf of warehousemen and all the citizens, the continued patronage of the farmers, not only during the approaching tobacco season, but in all seasons for years to come."

### Additional Floor Space Available On Local Market

Rogers Brothers Succeeding Edmondson at Planters, Roanoke-Dixie

Irrespective of factors outside their domain, operators of Williamston's Tobacco Market have completed all arrangements and are ready for a successful marketing season, beginning next Monday. Considerable floor space has been added to the facilities and two hustling young men have joined the operating personnel, giving the market the strongest leadership it has ever had. The two firms, operating four of the largest houses in this section, have been unusually busy for weeks, handling every detail looking forward to the successful operation of the market and to the advantage of its patrons. A strong corps of buyers is coming to the market and a capable force has been chosen to handle the de-

### Several Thousand Bushels Of Corn Burn Near Here

Storage House and Contents Valued at \$26,000 Burn

A large storage house and contents, valued at more than \$25,000, were destroyed by fire at Abbit's Mill on the Hamilton Highway near here last Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Believed to have started by spontaneous combustion, the fire had gained considerable headway before it was discovered and an alarm could be sounded. Answering the call, Williamston volunteer firemen pumped water from the millpond for about two hours trying to save 6,000 bushels of corn, approximately 4,000 sticks of cured tobacco, several new machines, feed and fertilizer. At one time the fire was so hot that it was dangerous for traffic to pass on the highway. Fire-fighting was interrupted several times when the hose lines were dragged across the highway to permit traffic, lined up for considerable distances each way, to pass.

The six thousand bushels of corn were valued at \$2.35 a bushel, or \$14,100. No definite value could be placed on the approximately 4,000 sticks of tobacco, but the owner said that it was of good quality and possibly worth \$2,000. Several machines, including a corn sheller used in the storage house, and several new feed mill machines bought

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### No Developments On Labor Front

A work stoppage, climaxing a union organization drive here, entered its second week today at the plant of the Williamston Package Manufacturing Company. All has been quiet in and around the plant with only a few employees reporting for work each day.

No new developments on the labor front here have been reported. The organizers, headed by Wm. P. Thomason, were out of town over the week-end, returning here Monday.

Forrest Shuford, State Labor Commissioner, was here last Thursday afternoon from Raleigh. While taking a neutral position in the labor movement, he expressed the hope that plants could continue operations and that there would be no serious unemployment.

### MARKETING CARDS

Approximately 1,600 tobacco marketing cards were mailed this week to Martin County farmers for use beginning with the opening of the markets next Monday.

Cards were mailed to all tobacco farmers except twenty-six who planted in excess of their allotments. In those cases, the farmers are to contact their committeemen and have them estimate the yields and report direct to the farm agent's office for red marketing cards.

### ROUND-UP

Even though there were eleven persons arrested and placed in the county jail, officers declared that last week-end was an unusually quiet one. Peace and quiet, for the most part, accompanied a decrease in liquor sales, the local store reporting a fairly sizable reduction in sales last Friday afternoon.

Eight of the eleven persons jailed were charged with public drunkenness, one each with larceny, assault and forgery. Two were white and the ages of the eleven ranged from a low of 18 to 51 years.