

Draw Bridge Opened To Traffic Yesterday

Project Costing Half Million Not Quite Completed

No Formal Opening Marks Opening of Modern High- way Structure

Under construction since March 15, 1946, the newly improved highway causeway and a new draw span across Roanoke River here were opened to traffic yesterday afternoon. The event unlike the one marking the opening of the first bridge a quarter century ago when six thousand persons were present for a formal program, was without fanfare.

Chief Highway Engineer J. C. Parkin and Superintendent F. W. Dickinson along with Assistant Superintendent Wiley Goodrich, other engineers and workmen, and Bridgekeeper Hugh Spruill stood by when traffic was routed from the temporary bridge to the modern structure, all of them expressing great relief.

At 4:09 o'clock yesterday afternoon, Chief Engineer J. C. Parkin waved a white signal for the opening and Cpl. T. Fearing of the N. C. Highway Patrol moved on to the bridge. W. F. Ehale of Norfolk, accompanied by E. G. Bedfordfield, also of Norfolk, moved on the east end of the bridge and traveled across, completing the first trip over the structure following its official opening. During the meantime, Johnson's Wholesale meat truck of Pantego was the last vehicle to travel across the old detour bridge.

Traffic, scheduled to move slowly over the structure until minor construction is completed, was darting across the draw span soon thereafter in an almost steady flow.

Final adjustments were made to the drawspan over the week-end, and the preliminary tests of the machinery and intricate wiring system were successful.

While the new bridge is open to traffic, the project construction is not quite complete. The temporary bridge is to be moved out of the way before several spans can be added but traffic will have to move one way at a time over a short course for only a limited time. Surfacing of the new bridge was completed last week-end.

Representing the contractors, Bowers Construction Company, Mr. Dickinson said that it will take a month or six weeks under favorable weather conditions to complete the project, including the construction and surfacing of several spans where the detour bridge connected with the old bridge, the removal of the old detour bridge and draw span, and the widening of the causeway just this side of the concrete bridge. Dirt will be moved from the detour to the fill on the curve at the western end of the bridge.

The new project, costing close to half million dollars, is one of the most pretentious of its kind in the east. The draw, representing a radical departure in bridge construction in this part of the country.

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Auto And School Bus In Accident

No one is reported to have been injured but right much damage was done when a school bus and an automobile crashed just west of Everett's last week. Patrolman B. W. Parker estimating the damage at \$150 to each vehicle following the investigation.

The bus, driven by Leon Williams, colored, had stopped to dis-

charge when a light-colored Buick sedan, driven by Bernard Lee Smith of Newport News approached. Smith applied brakes on his Pontiac and the machine skidded into the bus, damaging the front part of both vehicles and breaking the bus body frame.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle on the wrong side of the road, Smith was fined \$10 and required to pay the costs in Justice J. L. Hassell's court Monday evening.

TRAFFIC

The old Roanoke River bridge from September 1922 until October, 1946, carried 8,500,000 vehicles, according to estimates furnished recently by Mrs. James S. Burch, engineer of statistics and planning for the North Carolina Highway and Public Works Commission. Traffic over the Roanoke at this point increased down through the years, and during the thirteen months and three weeks the detour bridge was in use, it is estimated that 644,000 vehicles crossed over it.

The temporary structure vibrated and its rattlings and poundings could be heard a mile away, but it held up and served well its purpose.

Notables Inspect Huge Pulp Plant In Martin County

Governor Suggests Timber As Crop To Offset Cut In Other Crops

At a speechmaking interval of the North Carolina Pulp Company's initial "open house" tour held at its Plymouth plant last Thursday, Governor of North Carolina R. Gregg Cherry, principal guest of the mill at that time, said that the development of the State's natural resources, as demonstrated through operations of the Plymouth mill shown him that day, was a great step in North Carolina progress and greater economic stability.

The governor said that since the farm program had been reduced, farmers in the State should turn to other means of increasing their incomes and suggested the growing of pulpwood as an example. He pointed out that the growing of trees brought in a good profit. Governor Cherry remarked further that he was much impressed with the size and efficiency of The Kraftman, new paper-making machine recently installed by the plant and focal point of the tour which was attended by about 100 State and local governmental officials as well as high-ranking plant officers.

The dinner at which the governor spoke was held in the Country Club of Plymouth and climaxed the tour of the mill. Other speakers heard during the dinner included H. M. Kieckhefer, company president, who gave a brief resume of the history of the Plymouth plant since its foundation in 1937, and J. A. Auchter, resident plant manager, who acted as toastmaster and introduced both the governor and Mr. Kieckhefer.

The visitors went to Plymouth by special buses, arriving around 11 a. m. and making the return trip around 8 o'clock. The tour began immediately after a buffet luncheon at the Country Club at noon and lasted until 4:30 p. m. when the official party returned to the club for a reception and the dinner at 6 o'clock.

Other outstanding guests of the mill at the Thursday afternoon tour included Lieutenant-governor L. Y. Ballentine, Secretary of State Thad Eure, State Forester W. K. Biecher, State Motor Vehicles Commissioner Col. L. C. Rosser, Attorney General Harry McMullan, and Chairman T. A. Wilson of the Industrial Commission.

SCHEDULE

Handling only a small number of photographs for its files last week, The Enterprise is again making arrangements with Mr. Chas. D'Amours to take pictures in its office on Friday of this week. The paper is anxious to get pictures of as many of the section's business, professional men and others as possible. The picture is made without cost to the subject.

6,000 At Bridge Opening Quarter Of a Century Ago

Event Attracted Notables And Many Others From Large Territory

While the opening of the new draw bridge across the Roanoke here yesterday morning attracted no official attention and little from anyone else, it was a big time for eastern North Carolina when the first bridge was opened to traffic a quarter century ago on September 7, 1922.

The following story as it appeared in The Enterprise the day after the bridge opening reviews the program held to mark the gala event of a quarter century ago:

Thursday morning (September 7, 1922) dawned calm and fair. But soon the town was about with the pouring in of streams of visitors and neighbors from our own county and the counties of Beaufort, Washington, Lenoir, Bertie, Pitt, Halifax, Edgecombe, Pasquotank, and Tyrrell, and in fact from all over the eastern part of the state.

On Wednesday evening, Col. Fred Olds, that Prince of Good Fellows, came in and began to record our history, also Mr. J. B. Williams of Raleigh, representing the State Board of Education arrived to make suitable photographs of the bridge as a link in the development of the State in road building, this project being one of the most outstanding figures in the progress of our State along this line and Mr. Williamson will use the picture as an educational feature. He took a moving picture of the bridge and the approaches which will be seen on the screen later on.

When the Atlantic Coast Line train came in at six thirty, off stepped our old friend, Colonel Benham Cameron and later on in the evening Honorable Josephus Daniels and Mr. Ben Dixon McNeil arrived via automobile. While here Mr. Daniels was the guest of Elder Sylvester Hassell, a much beloved school teacher of his. Hon. O. M. Gardner and Mr. George White, the American Cement man, also came in Wednesday evening.

Then Pete Murphy, that distinguished legislator from Salisbury and the coiner of more really great descriptive phrases than any other man in all the State with his son, Spencer Murphy and Hon. W. C. Coughenour also of Salisbury were here.

On Thursday morning the first arrivals were those whom Jesus assured us would be with us always, the halt, the maimed and the blind, and they had become comfortably fixed when the crowds began pouring in from every direction and this time a new direction for very few had ever come from the northerly direction before, being hindered by the swift and deep Roanoke. Among the crowds we noted prominent citizens from New Bern, Ayden, Greenville, Farmville, Wilson, Goldsboro, Freemont, Rocky Mount, Tarboro, Scotland Neck, Roper, Plymouth and many other places. The town of Washington was represented by many beautiful young ladies, however most of the men were here, among them those who were most instrumental in helping us to get the bridge, Hon. Lindsay Warren, A. M. Dumay and Frank Kugler.

Senator W. H. Burgwyn of North Hampton led the hosts from that good old county. One of the most distinguished visitors was Honorable Heriot Clarkeson of Charlotte who was Governor Morrison's campaign manager and the lawyer who designed the general outline of the present road law now known as the Doughton-Conner-Buie Road Law. There was another distinguished visitor from Charlotte, Col. W. H. Harris whom everybody knows as the Charlotte Observer man and whom everyone likes and says he is a good fellow.

There was a little overbearing and we are sure that was caused by the difference of the point of view. Other distinguished newspaper men present were: Mr. J. H. Matthews of the Windsor Ledger, who is also the man who introduced the bill in the legislature authorizing the bridge; Mr. J. A. Osborne, editor of the Washington Daily

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Start Christmas Seal Sale In This County On Friday

The annual sale of Christmas seals, advanced as a part of a relentless fight against tuberculosis, will get under way in this county on Friday of this week, it was announced by Chas. H. Manning, seal sale chairman. Approximately 2,000 letters, carrying a direct appeal for support of the seal sale, will be placed in the mails that day, and they will be followed by TB bond sales, and bangle days. The colored schools in the county have pledged their cooperation in supporting the seal sale, and the white schools will support the program by handling the bangle sales.

The following district chairmen have been named, Frosty Martin, Jamesville; W. B. Harrington, Griffiths; Chas. L. Daniel, Williams; A. B. Ayers, Sr., Bear

Grass; Mrs. A. P. Barnhill, Cross Roads; Mrs. Ben James, Poplar Point; Craven B. Roebuck, Hamilton; Nat. Johnson, Goose Nest. The Jaycees with Philip Keel as chairman will sponsor the sale in Robersonville and Charles Manning will chairmen the drive locally in addition to his work as county chairman.

Martin County is being asked to raise \$2,500 during the sale which continues until Christmas. The quota is \$500 larger than last year, but the chairman explains that much of the money raised last year and most of this year will be needed to finance a county-wide x-ray tuberculosis survey early next year. Trucks to take the thousands of pictures have been scheduled already, and the money will be needed to finance the surplus.

Plan Abandoned For Election To Decide Extension Of Limits

Future Action Is Left Up To Those Outside the Town

Incorporation Delayed For Indefinite Time When Notice Is Cancelled

Plans to extend Williamston's town limits and formulate a progressive program after a mutual fashion have been abandoned, unofficially at least. After surviving the drubbing given them in a public meeting held in the courthouse last Wednesday night, local officials, speaking as individuals, said they would hesitate to push the plan any further. After hearing individual appeals to have the matter reconsidered, the officials explained that they would be glad to go over the proposal with interested parties and do what a majority wanted, but that any future action would have to be initiated by those citizens living in the affected areas outside the town.

"We hesitate to do more after being called names and accused of trying to 'suck' somebody in when we earnestly tried to do what we considered right and fair to everybody, both inside and outside our town," two officials said.

Incorporation of the two areas known as West End and "Doodle Hill" as parts of Williamston was delayed, either by official or unofficial act, for an indefinite period when legal advertisements providing for an extension of the present town limits were ordered cancelled. No special meeting of the board was called to take the action, but the order was given individual approval by a majority of the officials as individuals.

No meeting of the board is planned before the regular time next Monday, and what action will be taken at that time is hard to predict. Problems have already been presented to some of the town departments, but individual members of the board said they thought it advisable not to discuss

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Lions Club Aids Friendship Train

The local Lions Club recently contributed \$50.00 towards the purchase of a carload of flour to be added to the Friendship Train for the starving Europeans.

The local club, in cooperation with the other clubs of District No. 10, Lions International, which comprises all the Lions Clubs in eastern North Carolina, donated this sum to be added to the amounts contributed by the other clubs. It is understood that a firm in Morehead City provided the flour at cost.

As far as it is known, this is the only contribution that any local civic club has made towards this great cause.

HOLIDAY

Thanksgiving Day will be observed as a general holiday here, reports stating that heavy industry, including peanut and lumber mills, will close along with business houses and offices.

The schools will close Wednesday afternoon at the usual hour and reopen the following Monday morning. Some of the heavy industry is planning to suspend activities at noon Wednesday and reopen next Monday, but most of the mills will limit the holiday to the one day Thursday.

Traffic Safety Show Ends Tour

Completing a tour of most of the schools in this county last Friday, Officer Ernest Pressley and his special traffic safety show advanced what was described as the most effective safety drive ever conducted in this section. The series of shows, featuring educated dogs and a trainer sincerely interested in the safety of children and others, was brought to a close in the county at Farm Life last Friday noon.

Preliminary reports from the schools where the show was first staged declare that the pupils are working to earn special traffic safety club certificates. It will be interesting to study the number earned in each school. Large numbers of pupils have already mastered the question-answer sheet, it was learned.

Sponsored by the N. C. State Automobile Association, the unique traffic safety show is appearing in the schools of Bertie County.

Thanksgiving Proclamation

We are reaping another annual harvest, estimated to be the greatest in the history of America. While many people in other lands live almost an animal existence on a starvation diet we have sufficient for ourselves and can provide help to many millions of others:

For these opportunities we should be truly thankful for our heritage of good is greater than ever.

Let us be thankful not for just what we have but for the privilege of having enough so that we can extend our aid and comfort to others whom the world as not treated so well. Let us be thankful for the good of the past and for the opportunities of the future.

Now, therefore, I, R. H. Cowen, Mayor of Williamston, in accordance with the proclamation of the President of the United States and the Governor of North Carolina, and following a custom inaugurated by the Pilgrim Fathers in 1621, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 28th, 1946, as Thanksgiving Day in Williamston and call upon all business activities to cease on that day and may all our people repair to their various places of worship and render thanks to the Almighty for the wonderful blessings we have received.

Local Jaycees To Support Holiday Lighting Scheme

To Reconstruct Nativity Scene, Finance Lighting And Hold Party

During the coming season, on Friday evening the local Jaycees really got into the swing of Christmas spirit.

President Wheeler Manning opened the meeting by calling on Jaycee Charles Manning to lead the group in singing America, followed by the invocation from Jaycee Mayor Robert Cowen. After the appetizing dinner served by the ladies of Cross Roads Church a lengthy business meeting got under way.

Vice President Exum Ward installed a new member, Rudolph Saunders, salesman for Charles H. Jenkins Motor Company, pointing out "we are pleased to have you in the Junior Chamber of Commerce, an organization you will be proud to serve."

After a discussion by President Manning, the club unanimously adopted a plan to reconstruct the Nativity Scene which gained notoriety through its display last year. Jaycees Wheeler Manning, Carroll Coltrain and Bernard Harrison formed the committee in charge of reconstruction.

At this time Mayor Robert Cowen was recognized to discuss the Christmas Festoon Lighting. He pointed out that in the past the Virginia Electric Power Company had generously furnished without cost to the town the installation and maintenance of the Christmas lighting, but that he had been informed that this obligation would fall upon the town this year. He pointed out that the Town would be more than glad to furnish the costs of installing and maintaining the lights, had it been known at the time of adopting the Town budget, that this expense was going to fall on the town to pay, but that since his was not known he had no other choice than to call on the town's most active organization with hopes of some help from it. With a quick show of hands in favor of the club raising the funds for this Christmas Festoon lighting, Jaycees Edgar J. Gurganus, Thad Harrison, Jack Edmondson, Ernest Mears, and Lawrence Lindsay were appointed as a committee for this purpose.

On behalf of a committee of Jaycees T. F. Davenport, Carroll Jones and Jesse Sumner organized for the purpose of soliciting

HUNTING

Limping along with squirrel and deer on the available list, Martin County hunters are planning to branch out in a fairly big way, weather permitting, on Thursday of this week when it will be lawful to take quail and rabbits. The season for taking wild turkeys opened in this and a few other counties on Monday of this week.

Hunters are again urged to exercise every possible care in avoiding accidents.

Hold Funeral Here For Former Sheriff

DIES HERE



H. Thad Roberson, former Martin County sheriff and a well known citizen-farmer, died at his home here last Saturday night. Funeral services, attracting hundreds of friends and acquaintances, were conducted yesterday afternoon.

H. Thad Roberson Dies At His Home Saturday Evening

Was Prominent Figure In Masonry And Politics For Many Years

Funeral services were conducted at the home on Park Street here yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock to Harmon Thaddeus Roberson, former sheriff, who died at 9:30 o'clock last Saturday afternoon following a heart attack. Elder P. E. Getsinger, pastor of the Smithwicks' Creek Primitive Baptist Church where Mr. Roberson faithfully worshipped for many years, conducted the service, assisted by Elder S. B. Denny, Primitive Baptist minister of Wilson, and Rev. W. B. Harrington and Dr. Ira D. S. Knight.

Graveside and members of the lodge served as pallbearers. Mr. Roberson had been in declining health for nearly three years. During that time he had suffered several light heart attacks, but possessed of an almost unconquerable determination he would regain his health and continue his work. On November 2 he suffered a severe attack and his condition had been critical since that time. He was conscious almost to the last and the end came peacefully with members of the family at his bedside.

Thanksgiving Day Services

Special services will be held in a number of churches in the county on Thursday of this week, observing after a strict fashion Thanksgiving.

Williamston will center its religious observance of the day in a service at the Methodist Church that morning at 10:00 o'clock when Rev. John W. Hardy, Episcopal minister, delivers the sermon. The host church for the union service is arranging a special program.

Following a custom of long standing, a Thanksgiving service will be held at Smithwicks Creek Thursday morning at 11:00 o'clock for the entire community.

A sunrise Thanksgiving service will be held in the Hamilton Baptist Church at 7:00 o'clock Thursday morning. That evening at 7:30 o'clock, the pastor, Rev. E. R. Stewart, will conduct a special service in the Everetts Baptist Church.

Handle One Case In Court Monday

After continuing just about everything on the calendar except the big damage suits against L. W. Hardison and Frank Green, the Martin County Superior Court opening a second week of a two-week term Monday handled a lone case. Judge Paul Edmondson announced early in the day that the court would recess as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. H. Thad Roberson, former sheriff.

In the damage suit of E. R. Stewart against Ben D. Biggs, an agreement was reached without the case going to the jury. One report stated that the plaintiff accepted \$50 as a settlement fee.

The court is working on the damage suits against Hardison and Green today and will adjourn for the term following their completion. Judge Edmondson is to hold a custody hearing Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Funeral Tuesday For Infant Son

Funeral services are being conducted in Roddie's Grove Baptist Church Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Woodrow Perry, six-week-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Colman Perry of near Williamston. Rev. W. B. Harrington, the pastor, will officiate and burial will be in the churchyard there. Sickly for some weeks, the child was removed to the hospital about two days ago for treatment. Surviving besides his parents are six brothers and sisters.

End Farm Bureau Drive This Week

Extended when the response did not come up to expectations, the annual Farm Bureau membership drive will be brought to a definite close in this county on Friday evening of this week, President Chas. L. Daniel announced last week-end. A little over 275, short of its 324 goal last Saturday night, the drive is getting some late support this week, but leaders are frank to admit that the county is very likely to measure up short in its support for the organization this year.

The canvassers and other members of the organization are to meet in the courthouse on Friday of this week for a final membership accounting and handle other business.