

## Highway Engineers Accept Bridge Here

### Two Years Spent On Half-Million Dollar Structure

#### Last Of Contracting Firm Representatives Left Last Thursday

Costing nearly one-half million dollars and two years almost to the day in the building, the Roanoke River Bridge project was formally accepted by highway engineers last Thursday afternoon. The acceptance was without fanfare of any kind, but came following a detailed inspection and a minute check of the records.

The committee, representing the North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission, was composed of J. B. Broach, associate construction engineer for the commission's bridge department; T. J. McKim, division engineer; J. D. Miller, assistant division engineer; J. C. Parkin, resident engineer, and Electrical Engineer Furtado.

Awarded the contract for \$456,640.00, the Bowers Construction Company of Raleigh drove the first test pile on February 6, 1946. Actual work was delayed several weeks, pending the delivery of materials and the location of machinery and equipment for handling the project which cost almost as much as the original bridge and fill.

The contract called for the maintenance of traffic and a temporary structure, including approaches and a draw span, was built about 250 feet above the bridge. The old draw span was removed and replaced with a wider one and the concrete bridge was widened.

No final audit of the contract figures has been completed, but up until a few days ago, the contractor had earned \$468,497.34, the increase representing extra work added after the original bid had been accepted.

A bottom rail is yet to be added to the fender in the middle of the river, but the contractors had already waited eight months for low water and it was decided to go ahead and accept the structure with the understanding that the contractor would return and handle that work when low water is in the river.

Making their inspection last Thursday, the engineers found everything in order and all the mechanism, including warning bells, safety gates, traffic barriers and the draw span working perfectly.

The project represents a mass of concrete and steel. Reviewing hurriedly the material records, Engineer Connor estimated that there are 7,274,450 pounds of raw concrete in the bridge and pivot pier, that the steel used in reinforcing the concrete weighs right at 354,000 pounds. The steel draw span and the girders used in widening the concrete bridge weigh right at 756,000 pounds. The black

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## THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Only two accidents were reported on Martin County highways last week, but the record will show that the average was more than pulled up during this, the seventh week of the new year.

Surprisingly enough, only two persons were injured and none was killed in the first six weeks of 1947.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend; first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

Accidents Inj'd Killed Damage	Sixth Week
1948	2 0 0 \$ 75
1947	4 2 0 825
Comparisons To Date	
1948	15 2 0 \$ 2,375
1947	19 14 2 4,075

## HOUR OF PRAYER

Local people, white and colored, are again reminded of the World Day of Prayer Service to be held in two churches here Friday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. The colored citizens have completed plans for their service in the Shiloh Baptist Church on Elm Street, and the other service will be held in the Memorial Baptist Church.

Those business houses that cannot close during the service are asked to release as many of their employees as possible that they may attend.

## Auto Firm Plans To Rebuild After Disastrous Fire

### B and H Willys Company Is Seeking Temporary Quarters

Their physical plant destroyed last Tuesday noon by one of the most disastrous fires this section has had in recent years, the owners of the B. and H. Willys Company in the West End were said today to be considering rebuilding. During the meantime the owners are seeking temporary quarters to carry on their business, it was stated.

While no official inventory has been reported, it is estimated that the damage caused by the fire last Tuesday will approximate \$50,000, including a \$14,000 stock inventory. A later report stated that eleven automobiles, including a Cadillac, were burned.

It is believed that the fire started when snow blew into the building, wet electric wires and caused a short circuit in the wiring in the old radiator shop. One of the owners, Mr. W. R. Banks, had just inspected the property and found everything in order hardly more than an hour before the fire was discovered by James Staton Ayers who was passing along on the highway. Mr. Banks had returned to his apartment and was talking with Mrs. Banks and their three children when Mr. Ayers sounded the alarm. The family escaped with only the clothes they were wearing at the time. A few items, including possibly half dozen tires and one or two office items, were saved from the motor company's office and a jeep was driven out of the building ahead of the fire. Several of the cars lost in the fire were parked outside the building but were stuck in the snow and could not be moved.

Mr. and Mrs. Banks and children are now at home with Mr. and Mrs. Exum Ward, but it was learned today that they had been promised a new house by Mr. D. M. Roberson.

Mr. Ward said this morning that the fire threatened his sandwich shop, The Martin, that it was saved by throwing snow on it. "It was a close call for the Martin," he said.

Mr. Banks this morning expressed his great appreciation for the efforts made by neighbors and other friends, including members of the volunteer fire department, in trying to save the property. "And that goes for me, too," Mr. Ward said.

## Lions Postpone Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the local Lions Club, scheduled for seven o'clock tonight at the Woman's Club has been postponed.

The postponement was made because of the fact that the ladies serving the supper can not make arrangements to be here because of the condition of rural roads. All Lions and members of Boy Scout Troop No. 29 who were to have been guests of the club, are urged to note the postponement.

## Judge J. C. Smith Handles Nineteen Cases On Monday

### Fines and Forfeitures Total More Than \$500 In Short Session

Judge J. Calvin Smith handled nineteen cases in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday during a session that lasted until about 1:00 o'clock. Despite the threatening weather and the subsequent snowfall, a goodly crowd heard the proceedings.

Fines and forfeitures amounted to \$545.

Proceedings: Adjudged guilty of bastardy over his plea of innocence, Thurston Cherry was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the sentence upon the payment of the costs and on condition that the defendant pay \$10 a month for the support of the child during the next two years.

Samuel Manning, adjudged guilty of non-support, was sentenced to the roads for twelve months.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Hubert Alfred Perry and V. L. Peel, Jr., pleaded not guilty. Peel was adjudged not guilty. Perry, found guilty, was sentenced to the roads for twelve months, the court suspending the sentence upon the payment of a \$100 fine and costs and on condition that the defendant violate no liquor laws within one year. When the defendant, L. William Spear, charged with speeding, failed to answer when called, the court ordered his \$50 bond forfeited.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Carl Matchin was fined \$100 and taxed with the cost, the court recommending that the defendant's license to operate a motor vehicle be revoked for one year.

Pleading guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, Willie Yancey was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

George H. Alexander, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was found not guilty.

Pleading not guilty, Charlie E. Flanagan was adjudged guilty of assaulting a female and was sentenced to the roads for four months. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of a \$10 fine and costs and on the further condition that the defendant violates no law for two years.

The case charging Joe Brady with allowing an operator to leave the scene of an accident, was dismissed.

Charged with careless and reckless driving, Willie Brady was adjudged guilty and judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs.

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## Body Of County Boy On Way Home

The body of Cpl. William Freeman Haislip, II, who made the supreme sacrifice in the Pacific theater in October, 1942, is on its way home. Riding in the U. S. Army Transport, "Cardinal O'Connell," the body reached San Francisco yesterday along with the bodies of 2,784 other service personnel.

It could not be learned when the body will reach home, but it is hardly expected within three weeks. Funeral arrangements are pending, but burial will be in the cemetery at Hamilton beside his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Hannibal J. Haislip.

The first Martin County man to lose his life in the Marine Corps in World War II, he was fatally injured in the fighting on Guadalcanal on October 22, 1942. He died the following day and was buried in a U. S. Cemetery on Guadalcanal where it rested until disinterred for the final journey home.

Mrs. Haislip, in ill health for a long time, wanted to live long enough to see her son's body returned home, and before her death it was among her last requests to have it brought back and laid to rest in his home county.

He is the fourth body of Martin County men who paid with their lives in World War II to be brought back home for burial.

## Continuing Mass TB Survey Fourth Week

### SCHOOLS

"While it is not impossible, the reopening of the schools in this county is not probable next Monday," the county superintendent said this morning. Weather and road conditions will determine the reopening date, it was explained.

If the sun comes out and there is a strong wind, it might be possible to reopen the schools next Monday, but today the prospects were not encouraging for such action.

## Seven Injured In Head-on Crash At Skewarkey Today

### Extent of Injuries Could Not Be Learned at Once But Thought Serious

Seven persons were hurt, three of them believed critically, in a head-on wreck at Skewarkey on U. S. Highway 17 near here this afternoon at 2:15 o'clock. Complete details of the accident could not be learned immediately.

One of the cars, a Chevrolet owned by the North Carolina Highway and Public Works Commission and driven by Martin Luther White, formerly of Hamilton, was moving south. The other car, a Pontiac, driven by Jules Taylor, 17, of RFD 1, Box 626, Valrico Hills, Florida, was traveling north. The Pontiac had its right front smashed, the impact knocking the rear wheels out of line. The left front of the Chevrolet was smashed.

Taylor, believed to have suffered fractures of both legs, told Patrolman W. E. Saunders that just as they were meeting, the highway car started to cut in front of him, that he (Taylor) tried to cut to the left, that if he hadn't cut he would have hit the Chevrolet head-on.

White, suffering head injuries but apparently not seriously hurt, said he did not remember what happened, that he did not know what struck him. Both of the drivers said it was foggy.

Taylor was accompanied by his mother and father, Chas. J. Soutter, Milton Ryder and George Jenkins, all of Camp Mae Courthouse, New Jersey. The extent of their injuries could not be learned immediately, but it is thought that Ryder suered a fractured skull, first reports from the hospital indicating that his condition was grave. Mr. Edgar Taylor, father of the driver, suffered a back injury and severe shock. Mrs. Taylor had a compound fracture of one leg. Jenkins was not hurt very badly, it is thought.

Described as one of the worst (Continued on page eight)

## Could Win An Easy War From Yankees This Week

Without animosity but expressing the situation as it existed, a local observer said that a war could have been won easily against the Yankees this week, explaining that all the Yankees were down this way and that a march on the North could have been pressed without opposition. The observation was made about 3:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon when exactly 100 New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts cars, loaded with tourists, passed through Williamston's Main Street in an unbroken row. Street walkers were puzzled and it was thought that the tourists had been turned around by patrol order. An investigation revealed that Bridgekeeper Hugh Spruill was responsible for the traffic deluge. He turned the bridge for a boat to pass, and while the draw was open eighty foreign cars formed a line on the east side of the river. A traffic snarl followed on the town's main street, but

## Abandon Schedule In Just About All Centers This Week

### Survey Equipment to Move From Here to Cumberland After Next Week

Plagued by bad weather conditions during most of the three weeks it has been under way, the mass TB survey will be extended through Friday of next week, it was announced yesterday by health officials after the project was literally snowed under last Monday and Tuesday.

In addition to the unit which will continue operation at the Clark Pharmacy stand on Williamston's main street, the survey will go forward according to the following schedule:

Monday, February 16: Robersonville and Hamilton.

Tuesday, February 17: Robersonville and fertilizer plant in Williamston.

Wednesday, February 18: No. 90 filling station in Williams Township, and the North Carolina Pulp Company mill in the lower part of the county.

Thursday, February 19: Jamesville and Dardens.

Friday, February 20: Jamesville and Robersonville.

Weather permitting, X-rays will be made at the two units in Robersonville and Williamston on Saturday of this week.

Those persons, fifteen years old or older, who did not have an X-ray made when the mobile units were in their communities are invited to visit the nearest unit next week.

The schedule for this week in just about all the centers in the county was abandoned when snow started falling early Tuesday morning. So far, 8,397 persons have been X-rayed in the county. The clinics schedule for each Monday, Wednesday and Friday are being maintained for further study of some cases. However, only one person reported yesterday. Three clinics will be held on those days next week, and Dr. R. F. Bell will continue here for several days week after next to complete the reading of the X-rays and handle cases cited for further examination.

Health authorities hope, by extending the survey into next week, that it will include between 14,000 and 15,000 persons, and ferret out every case of tuberculosis in the county.

Advised of the weather difficulties experienced in this county by the survey forces, health officials in Cumberland yielded when requested to delay their schedule one week to allow more time for the survey in Martin.

## Volunteers Aid In Emergencies

When emergencies presented themselves during and right after the snowstorm last Monday and Tuesday, individuals volunteered their services to doctors and the fire department here and in other parts of the county.

Called to an emergency case Tuesday morning, Dr. Jim Rhodes, Jr., was helped there by James Staton Ayers on a jeep. The town tractor picked the doctor up a short time later, but perched on a fender without windshield or top the medic could get little consolation out of the ride other than that he was completing a trip.

Highway forces picked up a local doctor near the Beaufort County line and delivered him to a home in Griffins Township to handle an emergency case. Any number of volunteers reported when the fire department received a call from West End just before noon Tuesday. Jim Staton Ayers, making an emergency trip at the time, discovered the fire and sounded an alarm.

In Robersonville, doctors were shuttled back and forth on automobile wreckers in handling emergency cases.

## Fewer Marriages Are Reported In Month of January

### Decline In Number Marriage Licenses Maintained For Fourth Month

Although the Martin County marriage license bureau in the office of Register J. Sam Getsinger did a fairly rushing business last month, the number of marriages during the period was slightly under the count a year ago. The decline in marriages was maintained for the fourth straight month.

Licenses were issued to eleven white and twenty-two colored couples last month in this county, as follows:

**White**  
William C. Gerard of Hunters Bridge, N. C., and Theresia Stimpfle of Darmstadt, Germany.

William E. Buck and Frances Ayers, both of Bethel.

Turner Carter Leggett, Jr., RFD 4, Windsor, and Fannie Elizabeth Bowen of Williamston.

Charlie Hassell Bailey and Shirley Faye Taylor, both of RFD, Williamston.

Kater Benjamin Hardison and Mary Frances Stalls, both of Oak City.

LeRoy Merritt and Mildred Perry, both of Jamesville.

Raleigh Wilbert Gardner, RFD 1, Williamston, and Marjorie Harrison, RFD 2, Williamston.

Lee Herman Wilson, Jr., RFD 1, Bethel, and Sally Leona Everett of Conetoe.

Leamon Bullock and Allie Marie Roberson, both of Oak City.

Oscar Tice and Sarah Trulah Hardison, both of RFD 1, Williamston.

Joseph Ray Leary, RFD 2, Williamston, and Colleen Engle of Greenville.

**Colored**  
Woodrow Marrow and Mary E. Locke, both of Oak City.

Paul Lawrence Slade and Johnnie Belle Hardrick, both of Williamston.

Theodore Williams and Helen Williams, both of Everetts.

James Edward Rollins and Sarah Street, both of Robersonville.

James Peterson and Bertha Brown, both of Oak City.

Stephen Griffin, Jr., and Nellie Louise Tyner, both of Williamston.

Robert R. Carter and Elena Bunch, both of Windsor.

James Ramsey, Jr., and Nancy Ann Butler, both of Williamston.

Joseph Noah Godard, RFD 1, Williamston, and Fannie Idell Griffin, RFD 2, Williamston.

James Elmon Arthur Baker and Sarah Lucy Coburn, both of Williamston.

Elijah Dixon of Hamilton and Christine Baker of Oak City.

Sandy Worsley and Velma Jenkins, both of Robersonville.

Joseph Biggs and Ella V. Woolard, both of Williamston.

Peter Lawrence Godard of Williamston.

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## Area Digging From Under 15-Inch Snow

### SHORT

While reports have not been received all schools in the county, the contributions submitted so far show that the Infantile Paralysis drive in this county is several hundred dollars short of its goal, that unless very liberal donations are made in the yet unreported centers the campaign will fall below its \$2,600 quota.

It will be another week, at least, before final reports on the drive can be expected.

## Swine Production And Pastures Are Discussion Topics

### Jack Kelly and Sam Dobson Speak to Farmers At Two-Day School

By D. W. Brady Assistant Farm Agent

Jack Kelley and Sam Dobson, of the State Extension Service offered some timely pointers on swine production and pastures at the two-day school conducted in the courthouse last Thursday and Friday for Martin County farmers.

Mr. Kelly listed six points necessary in the production of hogs:

1. Breeding: A. Select good mothers that are good milkers that have large litters of pigs, using the breed you like best.

B. Always use a purebred boar produced by a good mother that has large litters.

2. Feed: A. Feed the hogs a balanced ration consisting of the following: a. Yellow corn.

b. Fish meal or tankage which can be mixed with 2/3 of plant protein such as cotton seed meal, peanut oil meal and soybean oil meal.

c. Ten pounds limestone, 5 lbs bone meal, 2 lbs salt.

d. Good pasture.

3. Water: Plenty of water at all times is absolutely necessary.

4. Shade: In hot weather hogs will suffer without adequate shade.

5. Housing: In rainy and cold weather hogs should have some kind of a house to go in to keep warm and dry. It may also be used for shade in the summer.

6. Sanitation. In order to have good health, pigs free from worms and disease sanitation must be practiced. This may be done by rotating pastures and not using the same pasture

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## E Bond Sales In County Increase

According to a report released a few days ago by H. A. Bowen, chairman, Martin County U. S. Savings Bonds Committee, the people of this county purchased \$388,639.50 in "E" bonds last year, an increase of \$47,563.80 over the \$331,175.70 purchased in 1946. In addition to their "E" bond purchases, the people bought \$14,097.00 in "F" bonds or \$13,209.00 more than they bought the year before. The purchase of "G" bonds, however, dropped from \$70,700.00 to \$51,000.00. The total purchase of all types of bonds last year amounted to \$453,736.50 against \$403,303.70 the year before, it was pointed out.

Martin County was one of eighteen in North Carolina to show increased purchases of "E" bonds last year over 1946.

The buying of series E government savings bonds last year was \$155,298,000 greater than sales by the holders it is announced in final treasury figures for 1947. As a result the public holdings of these bonds—formerly known as War Bonds—reached a high record of \$30,996,938,000 on December 31. The previous record was \$30,935,000,000, attained at the end of January, 1946.

## Business Slowly Getting Back To Normal Schedule

### Public Services Admit They Could Not Cope With Conditions

Blanketed by a fifteen-inch snow last Monday and Tuesday, this section is gradually digging itself out. While business is slowly returning to a normal schedule it will be days and possibly weeks before industry recovers fully from the blow. In fact, future schedules for many activities continue uncertain, and the area is resigned, more or less, to the patient task of waiting and letting time battle the wrath and fury of the elements.

Feeling the full blow of the snowstorm, this immediate section was poorly prepared to cope with the problem. Public service forces admitted their equipment was inadequate for the task, that it was bogged down for hours, creating a traffic bottleneck with its center right in the middle of Williamston's main street. Other than the Scotland Neck area, this county reported the largest snowfall in this part of the country. Hugh Spruill, keeper of the United States Weather Bureau rain and snow gauge, said 14.9 inches of snow fell here during the 24-hour period ending last Tuesday morning at 10:00 o'clock. Very little snow fell after that time. Other communities in this section of the State reported less than half that much snow, but sleet and ice on the highways offered a traffic hazard almost equal to the block caused by the snow here.

All schedules were shot to pieces last Tuesday. There was very little traffic of any kind. Mail and bus schedules were cancelled. Passenger bus schedules were resumed on a limited scale Wednesday, but mail schedules were hardly dragging back to normal this afternoon although traffic on the main highways was moving freely late Wednesday. The News and Observer, after missing delivery Tuesday morning, was back on schedule the following morning, and picture film and other delivery trucks were off the highways only a few hours.

Rural mail delivery service, suspended in its entirety for two days was resumed on a limited scale this morning, the carriers trying to effect deliveries along the main highways. Postmaster W. E. Dunn said he did not know when complete deliveries could be made, but there is little prospect that the routes can be covered in their entirety before next Monday, if at that time. City mail service was suspended Tuesday, and deliveries were limited yesterday to the business sections. It isn't likely that all the town will be served before Saturday or possibly Monday.

A majority of the business firms closed all day Tuesday and a few extended the holiday into Wednesday, some few observing short hours today. Business held to a low figure in some stores, but the boot business was brisk in others. Grocers reported unusually large

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DAMAGE

While no extensive property damage resulted from the weight of the 15-inch snow, several roofs gave away in this section early last Tuesday. The boiler room roof and the shed near the steam cookers caved in at the basket factory here. The cave-ins are likely to delay the reopening of the plant a week or ten days, it was learned unofficially.

A storage warehouse, filled with a large quantity of tobacco belonging to W. I. Skinner Co. here, caved in at Windsor Tuesday. No estimate on the damage could be had.