

Work Delayed By Rain on Ambrose House Near Here

More Than Twenty Work- ers Volunteer Services; To Wire House

Still hopeful the present shack won't fall down during the next day or two, twenty or more volunteer workers, headed by James Stevenson, are ready to start building a new three-room house just as soon as the weather clears for Ammie Ambrose, aged grandmother, and the eight members of her family. "We planned to get the family indoors before the sun went down today, but the weather is delaying the work," Contractor Stevenson said.

Material was placed on the lot yesterday, the G and H Builders Supply Company furnishing a large portion of it and below cost, and the Williamston Supply Company donating and delivering the sills and some other timbers salvaged out of the old Stanton cotton gin building. Mr. Whitley also donated some of the windows and other material. The lumber was supplemented when Mr. Lucian J. Hardison delivered three size logs to a mill the latter part of last week. Working against time, the building supply firm is exchanging lumber for the logs so that the construction work will not be delayed.

The Ayers Electric Company this week volunteered to wire the house for lights without charge, and the old well, its water even with the top of the ground and without a curbing for protection, will be replaced by a pump being donated by Deputies Joe H. Roebuck and Roy Peel.

Since the last report, contributors, white and colored, churches and organizations and others in distant states, some as far away as Illinois, boosted the cash fund by \$219 to a total of \$569.62. Additional contributions of cash are not necessary, it was pointed out today since the money in hand is believed ample to place the destitute family under a roof and make possible a few furnishings.

It was first planned to build a structure 24 by 14 feet for the family, but the liberal response to the appeal first issued two weeks ago today is making it possible to add a short "L" to the original plans, plus a porch.

Since the snow early last month, the sagging foundation of the old house has sagged even more, and one who enters there does so at the risk of falling timbers and a brick flue.

Few appeals have received a greater response than the one issued two weeks ago after the old woman had stolen from her all her earthly savings and the little group braved the big snow, after a fashion.

Since the last report, the following contributions to the Ambrose fund have been received:

Herbert Taylor, \$5; Peel and Manning, \$5; Dr. John D. Biggs, \$5; E. D. Peel, \$2; Edward S. Peel, \$2; W. L. Moore, \$1; Love and Charity Lodge, No. 48, submitted by S. C. Nichols, \$10; Order of Eastern Star, Ethel Winborne, W. M., and Etta Coburn, treasurer, \$10; Walter Harper, \$1; Ward's Florist, \$4; Russell Griffin, \$2; W. T. Alexander, \$5; F. VanNortwick, Robersonville, \$5; Fidelity

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Former Teacher Dies In Parmele

Rhoda Chance Highsmith, respected citizen and a former teacher in the schools of this and Pitt Counties for a number of years, died at her home in Parmele last Wednesday evening, death coming suddenly and unexpectedly.

Retiring from the teaching profession she was engaged in farming and was making plans for the future. She was a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist Church in Parmele, attending her last service the previous Sunday.

Funeral services were conducted by her pastor, Elder Bennie Exum in the Jenkins Chapel Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

County Board Holds Long Meeting Here

INCREASED VALUES

Complete reports are not yet available, but reliable indications point to some right healthy gains in the county's property listings this year.

Two townships, Poplar Point and Bear Grass, have been completed, and according to Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel, both of them showed sizable gains. Poplar Point had an increase of about \$19,000, a fairly good amount for the little district, and Bear Grass boosted its current listings by about \$70,000 over those of a year ago.

It is understood that new automobiles helped support the gains, and then there was some new building in the two districts.

VEP Will Sponsor 4-H Club Contest

The Virginia Electric and Power Company, with other companies, will again sponsor 4-H Club Better Methods Electric Contest this year, it was announced this week by S. P. Woodford, manager of the company's local district, embracing sixteen counties in this part of the State.

Sponsored nationally by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation and conducted in this State by the State Extension Service, the contest is designed to advance means of improving ways of doing things on the farm and in the farm home through the use of electricity.

County winners will receive a Medal of Honor and a two-day, all expense trip to the 4-H Club Electric Congress to be held in Raleigh in October, 1948. The four territorial winners from the 16 counties listed above will receive two \$100 scholarships and two gold watches.

Winners of the Territorial Awards in 1947 in the area sponsored by VEPCO were Celia Stokes, Martin County, and Albert Ellen, Halifax County — \$100 Scholarships; and Hazel Garris, Pitt County and Robert Ricks, Jr., Northampton County — gold watches.

Last year's Congress at Raleigh was attended by more than 70 4-H Club boys and girls from 39 North Carolina counties as well as by many State Extension workers and representatives of the sponsors. The two-day Congress was considered as big success by all and plans already are under way to make the 1948 Congress even more entertaining and beneficial.

Complete information concerning the contest for 1948 can be obtained from your County Agricultural Agent or County 4-H Club Leader.

Several students in this and other counties served by the VEP in this section are planning to enter the contest.

Up For Violating The School Rules

In one of the few cases charging a parent with failing to send his children to school, Alton Hardison whose three children live in the Farm Life School District, was sentenced to the roads for eighteen months by Judge J. C. Smith in the county recorder's court Monday.

Hardison, also charged with non-support, pleaded guilty and had little to say in his defense. He told the court that he had infantile paralysis when he was an infant, that he had been unable to procure work for months.

It was brought out during the trial that the defendant drank around a pool room in Washington.

Judge Smith suspended the road term on condition that Hardison

pay \$10 a week for the support of his children and send his children to school.

Plan Inspection Lane At Station For Motor Units

Authorize Education Board To Draft Plans For Bear Grass Building

Receiving two road delegations and the board of education and handling the numerous routine duties, Martin County's five commissioners—J. H. Edwards, chairman, and W. H. Harrison, Joshua L. Coltraine, C. A. Roberson and R. A. Haislip—remained in session right on through the lunch hour and until 2:30 o'clock Monday before completing their work. No major decisions were called for or made, but the board did authorize education officials to prepare plans and get cost estimates on a new high school building for Bear Grass with the promise that the proposed project will receive every consideration possible at a later meeting.

Hearing nothing from her previous appeals for a road from the pulp mill via the Warren Neck Road to Highway 64 near Dardens, Mrs. Kate York again went before the board in the interest of the project. She was assured that the matter would be pushed, that the board had already recommended it to the highway commission.

A small delegation went before the board in the interest of the Harris Mill Road, connecting the Bear Grass-Greenville Road at the Rose of Sharon Church, and the delegates were advised that the project had already been recommended.

The board agreed to accept one-half the cost for moving picture projectors for the colored farm and home agents.

The blind case worker was allowed additional mileage expenses for her work in this county.

Old tax accounts, bogged down in errors dating back as far as 1928, were cleared from the books in a number of cases after county counsel had searched the records and recommended adjustments.

Most of the accounts were still on the books because the property had been listed twice. In other cases, the listings were not in keeping with comparative years. Tax relief orders were issued in the following cases:

T. C. Crisp Estate, Parmele, for the years 1934-38.

Mack Cotton for the years 1928-39.

Mary E. Stallings, two acres Sweet Water Creek land.

Lizzie Purvis, Williamston Township, for 1929-36.

Ed and Lewis Spruill, Robersonville Township, for 1939.

B. F. Keys, Jamesville, for 1938. I. H. Wynne, Jamesville.

Iceland Meeks, Williamston, for 1935, 1938 and 1939.

W. S. McKeel, Williamston, for 1930.

J. E. Williams, Williams Township, for 1935 and 1937.

J. S. Griffin, Robersonville, for 1938.

Jarrett Slade, Bear Grass, for 1935.

Charlie Jones Heirs, Robersonville Township, for 1939.

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County Students Have Play Parts

Among the fifty-five students at East Carolina Teachers' College, Greenville, taking part in the production of a series of plays there this week are four Martin County young men and women. Included in the casts are:

Misses Margaret Wilson of Robersonville, and Varo H. Davenport of Jamesville. Earl Sawyer of Jamesville is serving as technical director.

Parking, Seating Rules Outlined For Cage Tourney

Jamesville Boys Win Top Seeding, Williamston's Boys Rate Second

Jamesville boys and Bear Grass girls drew top seeding for the Martin County High School tournament which opens in the Williamston gym tomorrow night at 7:00 o'clock before a crowd that will be limited by fire protection rules.

Williamston boys and Jamesville girls drew the second seeded places, the boys as a result of their season's play and the girls as a result of the toss of a coin that broke a tie between Jamesville and Bear Grass. Jamesville won the toss and elected to take the No. 2 spot rather than first. Each of these girls teams had defeated the other once this year.

Fire protection rules are to be enforced for the tournament and the seats are to go to those who get there first as admission will be halted when the fireman in charge declares the safety limit has been reached.

Tournament officials were quite anxious that fans should understand the importance of parking their cars away from the gym. A parking space is provided close to the building that will hold more automobiles than could possibly be used by fans attending the contests.

Officials decided that in the event a score is tied in a girl's game during the tournament it shall be played off in three minute extra-periods which will start with a jump ball at center. Admission charges will be 25c and 50c.

A game between the girls' teams of Williamston and Robersonville will open the tournament at 7:00 p. m., Wednesday. Oak City and Farm Life girls meet at 8:00 and Oak City and Bear Grass boys will clash at 9:00. There may be a bit of variance in the starting times of games other than the openers as delays cannot be accurately determined in advance.

Thursday night's card opens with Bear Grass girls meeting the winner of the Williamston-Robersonville contest at 7:00. Robersonville and Oak City boys play the second game on the night's card and the winner of the Oak City-Bear Grass boys' game will meet Williamston's boys in the night's last contest.

Friday night's activities open with a game between Jamesville and the winner of the Williamston-Robersonville and Bear Grass games for the girls' division. The second game of Friday evening is to be played between Jamesville boys and the winner of the Robersonville-Farm Life game. Games on Friday night drop back to 7:30 because only two games are to be played and Jamesville is certain to be represented in both.

The championship battles will begin at 7:30 Saturday night between the two surviving girls' outfits while the boys' championship fight starts immediately after the girl champion is named.

Most observers believe the Williamston and Jamesville boys' outfits will move to the finals for a real battle for the championship, but dope can go wrong in these tournaments.

According to the dopsters Bear Grass and Jamesville should be

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Name James Head Of Enforcement

Ben H. James, for several months Martin County game warden, has been named to supervise law enforcement for the First District of the Wildlife Resources Commission, it was announced last week-end by D. Warren Lupton, chief of law enforcement for the commission.

The position made vacant by the county man's promotion.

The first district, represented by Joe Winslow, is comprised of Cur-

quimans, Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Bertie, Martin, Washington, Tyrrell, Dare and Hyde Counties.

Well-Known Man Died In County Late Last Night

Funeral Service Wednesday Afternoon for James Washington Griffin

James Washington Griffin, well-known Martin County citizen and retired farmer, died at his home in Cross Roads Township Monday night at 11:00 o'clock following a long period of declining health. He had been confined to his bed for months and his condition had been serious for some time.

The son of the late Henry W. and Eliza Coltraine Griffin he was born in Griffins Township 88 years ago on July 12, 1859, and spent most of his life there farming and living at peace with his fellowman. About seventeen years ago he purchased a farm in Cross Roads Township and located there, continuing to farm and taking an interest in the affairs of his adopted community. His early life influenced by the trials and tribulations of the Civil War period and the following reconstruction years, Mr. Griffin learned to appreciate the simple and finer things in life. He valued the friendship of his fellowman and his word was his bond. While his life was humble and unpretentious, it was marked by fine ideals and righteousness.

He was married in 1888 to Miss Clara Jane Griffin who died in May, 1943.

Mr. Griffin was a member of the church at Cross Roads and his pastor, Rev. D. W. Davis, assisted by Rev. F. A. Lilley and Rev. W. B. Harrington will conduct the funeral services Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. Arrangements had not been completed early today, but the last rites will be conducted either at the home or in Christian Chapel. Interment will be in the Coltraine Cemetery at the old Big Mill in Williams Township.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Connie Williams of Jamesville and Mrs. Sadie James and Mrs. Myrtle Lilley, both of near Williamston; and one son, J. Marion Griffin, of the home.

Liquor Business On The Increase

Holding to a fairly low point for several years, the illicit liquor business is on the increase in this county now, according to ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck.

It is a fairly certain sign that circulating money is dwindling in quantity when marginal farmers turn to the illicit liquor business and trade to supplement their legitimate income, the officer pointed out.

Raiding in Bear Grass Township along the Cross Roads Township boundary last Thursday Officer Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel found a virtually abandoned plant. They wrecked four fermenters, a cooler and other equipment but could not find the kettle. Extending their search for the kettle over a several-hundred yard radius, the officers never did find what they were looking for but they located a large plant, fully equipped. Approximately 500 gallons of beer, stored in two fifty-gallon capacity fermenters and a large box, were poured out. The officers captured the 100-gallon capacity copper kettle and an oil burner along with other manufacturing equipment.

In addition to the increase in the manufacturing business, several persons have been carried into the courts recently for retailing non-tax paid liquor.

ROUND-UP

Seven persons were rounded up and detained temporarily in the county jail last week-end for alleged violation of various laws.

One was booked for larceny, one for disorderly conduct, and one for speeding, and two each for assaults and

All of the seven were colored and their ages ranged from 20 to 51 years of age.

Propose High School Unit For Bear Grass

Saturday School Schedule Goes In Effect This Week

No Easter Monday Holiday Will Be Allowed This Year

Holding their first meeting of the new year, members of the Martin County Board of Education Monday proposed the construction of a new high school unit for the Bear Grass District, adopted a Saturday teaching schedule for all the schools in the county and sold the old colored school building and site in Poplar Point Township.

With an upward trend in the attendance figures and a marked need for a lunch room in Bear Grass, the board of education, headed by Chairman J. D. Woolard, Sr., went before the county commissioners and discussed the proposed project which is classed as an emergency project. No action was taken by the commissioners other than the issuance of instructions to the board, calling for detailed plans and cost estimates. The plans and cost estimates are to be considered by the commissioners later. While the tentative plans call for the construction of a six-room unit and a lunch room, they are subject to be altered, it was learned.

Beginning this week, all schools, white and colored, will go on a Saturday schedule to make up time lost on account of unfavorable weather and bad road conditions.

All white schools except Bear Grass will observe the following schedule: School on the first three Saturdays in March, on the first, second and fourth Saturday in April and the first Saturday in May, closing the term on May 28.

The Bear Grass white school will, in addition to the regular five-day week, of course, teach in the first three Saturday in March, four in April and four in May, closing on May 31. Bear Grass, in addition to the time lost on account of the weather and roads, was forced to close when the boiler cracked.

The colored schools will remain open on the first three Saturdays in this month, four Saturdays in April and the second and third Saturday in May, closing on May 23.

There'll be no holiday for the schools on Easter Monday.

A four and one-half hour schedule will be in effect on Saturdays, the schools closing the day between 1 and 1:30 on those days.

The board, while opposing in principle the Saturday schedule, deemed the six-day week advisable when it was pointed out that the regular schedule would delay the closing until about the middle of June.

The abandoned school house and site in Poplar Point was sold at public auction to J. S. Williams for \$1810. No bids were received for the old Jamesville colored school site.

Crowds Attending Preaching Mission

Beginning a five-day preaching mission in the Church of the Advent here last Sunday evening, Bishop Thomas C. Darst, retired, was heard by a large congregation, most of the other churches cancelling their evening services to join the mission worship. Most of the Kiwanis club members attended the service in a body.

Bishop Darst, always receiving a warm welcome to Williamston by members of all denominations, pointed out that our troubles today will be solved only when we bow down at the feet of Christ, and added that Christ's work had been blocked by self.

The minister will hold mission o'clock through Thursday, and on Friday a dedication service has been scheduled.

UNDER WAY

The drive to raise \$2,544 in the Martin County chapter for the American Red Cross got under way this morning, but no reports on the drive could be had immediately.

Drive Chairman Claude Baxter Clark said that district chairmen were working as follows: Jamesville, Mrs. Camille Fleming Rawls; Williams, Mrs. R. J. Hardison; Griffins, Mrs. J. Eason Lilley; Bear Grass, Mrs. Pete Mendenhall and Mrs. Roy Harrison. The chairman will direct the work here.

Our people are urged to support the drive and help put it over the top, remembering that this chapter has not failed in the past and that it cannot afford to fail now.

Threatens Officer With Pistol Here

His life threatened, Officer Chas. R. Moore, accompanied by other members of the local police force, went down on East Main Street early Sunday evening to question Leamon Bennett, 51-year-old colored man.

Placing Bennett under arrest, the officers started to take him to headquarters for further questioning. Just as they reached the police car, Bennett whipped out a pistol and pressed the barrel of the weapon against Officer Moore's side. The officer went into action. Grabbing the barrel of the revolver he turned it toward Bennett and none of the six bullets in the revolver was fired.

Bennett had the weapon hid up his sleeve, the officers missing it in a hurried search. Several wrenches and other articles were found on Bennett's person.

Bennett was booked last week for allegedly trying to hold up J. D. Slade, young colored man. He was bound over to the county court by Justice Hassell at a hearing Thursday evening.

Hold Successful Recreation School

A district recreational school for home agents and 4-H Club leaders was concluded in the legion hut here last Thursday evening, Miss Garnette Crocker, assistant home agent, stating that the school was very successful, that nearly 100 persons attended.

The school, running for three nights, was conducted by Miss Virginia Gregory of the State Recreation Commission, and Jesse James of the State Extension Service, and trained the agents and club leaders in promoting and directing recreation programs.

Bertie, Beaufort, Chowan, Edgecombe and Washington Counties were represented along with Martin at the school.

The Macedonia Club in this county entertained the faculty and students at an informal reception the last night of the school.

Martin Will Not Seek Re-election

The first move taken on the local political front came last week-end when C. B. Martin, Robersonville school principal, announced he would not be a candidate to succeed himself as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives from Martin County.

Announcing that he would be a candidate this year, Mr. Martin expressed his appreciation for the support and confidence expressed in the past, and added, "I feel I can better serve my fellowman in

Charge Man With Assaulting Local Officer With Gun

Other Cases Aired In Court Of Justice Of Peace Here Last Week

Probable cause appearing in the case in which he was charged with being drunk and disorderly, resisting arrest and an assault with a deadly weapon on a local police officer, George Owens was bound over to the higher courts by Justice John L. Hassell at a preliminary hearing held in the mayor's office last Thursday evening.

While Justice Hassell was waiting for witnesses in one case, Justice R. T. Johnson sandwiched in a worthless check case in which Mayo Matthews was defendant.

Matthews, maintaining that something had been paid on the checks given to a Windsor firm, was adjudged guilty. He was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the sentence to be suspended upon the payment of the checks and costs. "I take a repeler," the defendant said. "Bond was arranged in the sum of \$100.

Owens pleaded not guilty, but did not take the stand in his own behalf. Testifying before the court, Officer Raymond Rawls said about 1:00 o'clock last Wednesday morning and while near the Williamston Supply Company on Elm Street he heard a rifle fire.

He moved in the direction of the shooting and just as he turned into Pear Street he saw Owens running with a rifle. "I called to him to halt, but he continued to run, turning when about fifty yards away and firing his rifle in my direction," the officer said.

"I lost him temporarily in some weeds, but later picked up his trail and arrested him in bed at his home," the officer added, declaring that the man was crazy drunk.

"You can't do any thing but shoot me," Owens was quoted as saying after he and Les Midgette had tried to throw the officer off the trail.

Glrene Smith, witness for the state, said that Owens was drunk, that he and another boy had had some words, and that he (Owens) had a rifle under his arm when he was at Sim Smith's home. Doris Langley and Ella Mae Cooper, other witnesses for the state, were not questioned at the preliminary hearing. Bond was required in the sum of \$300.

Probable cause was also found in the case charging Leamon Bennett, colored, with attempting to hold up J. D. Slade down the river hill last Wednesday night.

Slade said that he was driving up the street when a man waved him down with a flashlight. Thinking it was someone who wanted a lift up town, Slade said he stopped, that Bennett came to the side of the car, shined a light in his face and said, "I thought you were someone else." Slade said, "This is Slade," explaining to the court that he started to drive away when Bennett allegedly threatened his life. Slade said he started his car and drove away, leaving the man behind. Bond was required in the sum of \$200 by Justice Hassell.

Jaycees Planning Busy Week Here

The week's calendar for the Junior Chamber of Commerce members begins tonight with a meeting of the Board of Directors at Wheeler Manning's office, at 7:30. This is a very important meeting, and all directors are requested to be present.

Wednesday evening, a delegation of Jaycees is scheduled to journey over to Plymouth for the second organizational meeting there. The local chapter is attempting to organize a unit in the Washington county seat. All Jaycees that can attend are urged to do so, and those planning to attend are requested to notify Secretary Thad Harrison or Extension Chairman James Bullock.

Regular dinner meetings of the club will be held at seven o'clock, the place to be announced later.