

## Officials Reject Offer of Property For A New Street

### Latest Plans Call for Paving The South Block Of Smithwick Street

In a special session last Tuesday evening, Williamston's town commissioners rejected an offer by Mr. Jos. B. Cherry to give a right-of-way for straightening South Smithwick Street in exchange for tax receipts. Not certain what other property owners would do, and reasonably convinced that they could not legally cancel tax claims in the sum of approximately \$1,700, the commissioners abandoned plans for relocating the south end of the street as it leaves the intersection with Railroad Street at White's tin shop.

Holding a petition signed by those owning fifty-one percent of the property facing the old street, the board ordered that the present street be improved and paved, the improvement to include curb and gutter, street paving and a sidewalk on the lower or north-east side. It is roughly estimated that the project will cost approximately \$3,500. Final action is expected at the June meeting after definite cost estimates are prepared.

Preliminary budget figures were studied following a review of the expenditures in relation to the 1947-48 budget to date. It was pointed out by Treasurer Dan Sharp that all departments were running well within their current budget estimates except in one instance where new equipment was added unexpectedly. The heads of the department are to be called in to go over the proposed budget figures for the next fiscal year, the officials calling for the completion of the figures in time to complete and have the tax books ready as soon as possible at the close of the fiscal year.

Advised that the supply of available lots is rapidly dwindling, the board is planning to explore the possibility of extending the boundaries to include adjoining property to the northwest.

The next meeting of the board will be held early in June.

It was pointed out that work on a new deep well is going forward, but that the outlook now is not as favorable as it was when the 450-foot hole was opened. Several layers of fine water-bearing sand were found, but the contractor has been unable to run a production test, it was learned.

## For County Commissioner



Messrs. Henry S. Johnson, Jr. (left) and Nat W. Johnson (right) are bidding for the Hamilton-Goose Nest District seat on the Martin County Board of Commissioners being vacated by Commissioner R. A. Haislip at the end of the current term. The two candidates are numbered among the most prominent young business men in the county. Not to be confused with Mr. Henry A. Johnson of Gold Point, Mr. Henry S. Johnson is a Hamilton business man and farmer, and Mr. Nat W. Johnson is in business at Oak City.

## Contracts Approved For School Projects

### TAKE NO CHANCES

Abram (Buddy Rowe) Fonville's debtors are said to be taking no chances on their creditor getting out of jail where he is being held for the murder of Lewis Riddick and the serious wounding of Willie James Melton here on the morning of May 8.

One of the man's debtors was said to have sent him several dollars on a debt a few days ago, explaining that the last dollar would be paid this Saturday.

It will be recalled that Fonville went wild with a pistol when he called on Melton and Riddick to pay up their gambling debts, and that he fired away when they did not come forward with the cash.

## Report Business Bureau Progress

The canvassing committee for the Williamston Business Bureau advises that the merchants and professional men are a little slow in returning the letters that were mailed to them last week.

No doubt this is caused by their not knowing the purposes and aims of the organization. Several firms have called in to ask questions and the members of the committee are glad to have them call and to explain what the assessment covers and what the Bureau hopes to accomplish.

It is the intention of the canvassing committee to organize groups and have at least two members visit each potential member and outline the purpose of the Bureau.

Two good examples of such an organization was displayed in Raleigh when they had their "Trade In Raleigh Day", and in Rocky Mount when they had their "Gallopade." With the cooperation of all the firms and professional men, Williamston can have a similar organization in its Business Bureau.—Reported.

## Prize Stock Show Beef On Sale in Store Here

Prize beef of the recent Martin County Fat Stock show is being placed on sale in the Colonial Stores market here this week-end at no advance in prices.

Some of the beef was placed on sale a few days ago by Ward's Market here.

## Senatorial Candidate Makes Short Visit Here

Accompanied by Sheriff Horton of Pamlico, Mr. Sam M. Campen, Pamlico County business man and prominent farmer, mad a short visit here today in the interest of his candidacy for the State Senate.

## Judge J. C. Smith Has Fifteen Cases In County's Court

### Man Gets His Initials Mixed Up In Driver's License Law Violation

Judge J. Calvin Smith handled fifteen cases in the Martin County Recorder's Court during a comparatively short session last Monday. A fairly large crowd was present to hear the proceedings. Fines in the sum of \$205 were imposed and several road sentences were meted out.

Hopie Brooks, charged with operating a motor vehicle without the new type driver's license, was adjudged guilty and was fined \$25, plus the costs. Brooks explained to the court that he thought he was to get his new license when the "H" for Hopie came up instead of the "B" for Brooks. The twisted wrinkle did not save him.

A rather pathetic case was aired in the court when Junius Ebron, 70-year-old colored man and a pensioner in the State of Virginia, was called to answer for the second time a non-support charge. Returned to the county last week by Deputy Murray Holloman, Ebron depends mainly on a small pension for his support. Last November he was in the court for not providing support for his wife and children. He was directed to pay \$20 a month and prayer for judgment was continued at the November session. He was brought back when it was learned that he had not made the first payment. During the meantime, his wife has been working in a basket factory to support the children. He had very little to say for himself, and calmly accepted the twelve-month road sentence.

Oscar Rollins, drunk and disorderly, was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs. The court directed him to pay \$7 medical bill for Minnie V. Gainer, and he drew a five-day jail sentence. He is to pay \$10 for his jail board and keep.

Charged with being drunk and disorderly and resisting arrest, Johnnie Jones pleaded not guilty. Adjudged guilty he was sentenced to the roads for twelve months, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of a \$50 fine and costs and \$35 to Officer W. Edmond Early for clothes damaged by the defendant. He is to violate no criminal law during the next two years.

Charged with an assault, Robert Bellamy was adjudged not guilty.

J. Leon Wynne, charged with drunken driving, called for a jury trial and his case is to be called on May 31.

Charles Fowler, charged with non-support, pleaded not guilty and was adjudged not guilty. The State, in the case, maintained that the plaintiff was forced to move out of their home when the property was sold, that she stored their household goods in Rocky Mount when no suitable living quarters could be found in Parmele, that she was forced to live with her children in other states, and that the husband had failed to provide.

## School Cafeteria For Robersonville Included In List

### Commissioners In A Joint Session With Board Of Education

The Martin County Commissioners meeting in joint session with the County Board of Education Tuesday approved three school construction projects in this county, the list including a cafeteria for the graded school in Robersonville, an addition to the school at Bear Grass and a new high school unit here.

No contracts have been formally signed as yet, but the successful bidders are being notified and the preliminaries will be handled as quickly as possible with the expectation that construction activities will get under way within a comparatively short time. It is fairly certain however that none of the buildings will be ready for use at the opening of the 1948-49 term late next summer.

The program, calling for an addition to the school at Bear Grass, a one-story high school unit in Williamston and the Robersonville cafeteria, will cost approximately \$116,446, exclusive of the plumbing, heating and electrical wiring of the cafeteria which will be handled, in all probability, by the education board forces.

The Bear Grass general contract is being awarded to C. B. Mooney and Sons of Edenton for \$41,065. The Bear Grass heating contract, calling for an expenditure around \$16,000 or more.

The commissioners discussed the program for almost two hours, and it was pointed out that it can be financed from reserve funds and without a special bond issue. However, there is a possibility that the tax rate will be affected slightly.

The award of \$7,444, was awarded to C. L. Russ and Sons of Greenville. The plumbing contract for Bear Grass, going to Jack Sullivan of Rocky Mount, calls for an expenditure of \$3,785. The electrical wiring contract there goes to the Durham Electrical Company, the amount boosting the total cost of the Bear Grass building to \$53,894.

C. B. Mooney and Sons are also being awarded the contract for the general construction on the Williamston High School project, calling for an expenditure of \$40,300. The heating contract, going to C. L. Russ and Sons, amounts to \$4,023. Jack Sullivan gets the plumbing contract in Williamston for \$3,387, and the electric wiring contract, going to the Durham Electrical Company, amounts to \$1,300, boosting the total cost of the unit project to \$49,010.

The general construction contract will be awarded to an over-

## Candidate for Governor To Make Motorcade Visit Here

Climaxing the six-man race for governor, R. Mayne Albright will stop his motorcade here next Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for a twenty-minute program in front or near the City Hall, it was announced by his Raleigh headquarters yesterday. The stop will be one of about thirty the 38-year-old candidate for governor will make in a wide swing throughout Eastern North Carolina in the last few days of the rough-and-tumble campaign.

Moving in from Tarboro, the motorcade, headed by Albright's car-trailer, "The Challenger," will stop near the City Hall, marking the candidate's second visit to this section. The candidate will speak briefly from "The Challenger," and move out of here at 3:20 for Plymouth, going from there to Washington and on to an over-

## To Collect Books For Leper Colony

Boy Scouts of Troop 27 will start collecting old discarded books Monday, May 24 for distribution to a leper colony in the Philippine Islands.

Local people are asked to cooperate with the boys by donating a few old books. Books suitable for junior and senior high schools use, and especially general fiction, travel, adventure and biography are needed.

## Justice Johnson Hears Four Cases

Justice R. T. Johnson heard four cases in his court the early part of this week.

Charged with "beating" a board bill, J. B. English was found not guilty.

Probable cause appearing in the case charging him with assaulting a female, Roscoe Morrow was bound over to the county court under bond in the sum of \$25.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the cases charging Leon Roberson and C. H. Rawls with not stopping before entering a main highway from a side road. It has been a common practice for motorists to slow down and move into the main highways without stopping, but the law calls for a complete stop.

Work on the foundation was started yesterday for a storage warehouse on Railroad Street between Elm and Pearl S reets by Mr. Sid A. Mobley.

The structure, 65 by 150 feet, is to be built with cinder blocks and the floor will be of cement.

## FOR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



The three men pictured above — J. D. Woolard (left) of Williamston, Cecil B. Powell (center) of Gold Point, and Henry C. Norman (right) of Robersonville — are in the race for the two openings on the Martin County Board of Education. The race is not limited to districts and the two high men in the May 23 primary, irrespective of residence, will be recommended for appointment by the next General Assembly. All three men are well known in the business field in this section.

## TOBACCO PENALTY

Penalty on tobacco produced in excess of quotas has been fixed for 1948 at sixteen cents a pound, according to unofficial information received here this week.

This year's penalty is a drop of three cents from that of 1947, when the penalty was 19 cents per pound. County tobacco acreage allotment was also reduced this year.

The penalty figure is based on 40 percent of the average market price, calculated to the nearest whole cent, for the kind of tobacco for the preceding market year. Last year's flue-cured tobacco brought an average price of 41.2 cents per pound.

## Announce Finals Program In The Williamston School

The first in the series of events on the local school commencement program will be held Sunday evening at 8:00 o'clock when Rev. John W. Hardy, rector of the Church of the Advent, preaches the commencement sermon in the high school auditorium. It is customary here to rotate the sermon assignment and the Episcopal minister gets it this year. Special music will be rendered by the high school glee club. There'll be no services in the several churches when members of all denominations gather at the school to worship at the special service for the seniors.

A high spot in the finals program but one not so eagerly anticipated, is the examination sched-

## Hold Meeting In West End Church

The revival services being held this week at West End Baptist Church, Williamston, are meeting with much success. The Reverend Paul B. Nickens, pastor of Ludford Memorial Baptist Church in Plymouth, is the visiting minister, and is bringing the message each evening this week at eight o'clock continuing through Saturday evening. The revival will not close at this time, but the pastor, J. Thad Ashley, will preach the closing sermons Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.

There has been a large attendance at each of the services with people attending from Williamston and the surrounding territory.

## Few Participate in Drive On Rats

A preliminary report on the anti-rat campaign in this county indicates that comparatively few individual farmers are participating in it. Approximately 175 farmers ordered 504 pounds of bait and prepared yesterday to "plant" it.

However, it was explained that the incorporated towns are going ahead with an effective drive. Robersonville handled about 160 pounds last Thursday despite the rain. Williamston is making ready to spread between 800 and 1,000 pounds within the next few days. Everetts, Jamesville, Hamilton and Oak City have ordered 160 pounds each, and Parmele and Hassell are planning to use about 75 pounds of the special poison in the drive to reduce the rat population.

## Announce Safety Slogan Winners

Winners in the Safety Slogan contest, sponsored here recently by the American Legion Auxiliary in the elementary grades of both the white and colored schools, were announced a few days ago.

In the white schools, Sandra Margolis won first prize. Other winners were Anne Davis Peel, Janice Holliday, Sarah Everett and Billy Glover.

In the colored schools, Marjorie Langford took first honors. Other winners were, Nellie Gray Rogers, Herman Davis, Joseph Manson and Eva D. Lynch.

The winners were awarded certificates.

## Guernsey Sale To Be Held In Goldsboro

A large Guernsey sale is being held in the Farmers Warehouse in Goldsboro Friday afternoon of this week at 1:00 o'clock. Several farmers from this county are planning to attend.

## P. T. A. HOLDING FINAL MEET OF YEAR MONDAY

The Williamston Parent-Teachers Association will hold its last meeting of the year Monday night at 8:00 in the grammar school auditorium. Election of officers will be in the principal business of the meeting.

## Speedsters Have Another Day In Court This Week

### One Defendant Said To Have Exploded When Faced With Facts

There has been a marked reduction in the number of speeding cases in the county recorder's court, but a few are still being tagged by active patrolmen. Four speed law violators were booked in the court this week, each drawing a \$25 fine, plus costs.

Maintaining he was not guilty, Charles Maronna, 66, of St. Petersburg, Florida, released a verbal lashing against the court, declaring it was a racket. Almost fighting mad, he was said to have called Patrolman J. T. Rowe a liar, a casual observer stating that the man barely escaped without being held in contempt of court. The patrolman declared he was careful in checking the defendant's speed and his story was accepted by the court. Maronna paid the \$25 fine and costs, and while he may consider the bill exorbitant, Clerk L. B. Wynne expressed the opinion that the man got off light.

Wiley C. Harrell, Virginia Beach druggist, was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs. He did not like it a bit, but he was more reserved than was Maronna.

Paul C. Skrimetta of New Orleans admitted he was violating the speed law and settled up by paying a \$25 fine and costs.

Daniel C. Stetler of Lake Wales, Florida, was fined \$25 and required to pay the costs in the speeding case brought against him.

Charles A. Ziliak of Michigan was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs when he pleaded guilty of violating the speed law.

## THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

| Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge |    |    |        |
|-------------------------------|----|----|--------|
| 20th Week                     |    |    |        |
| 1948                          | 1  | 1  | \$ 350 |
| 1947                          | 0  | 0  | 00     |
| Comparisons To Date           |    |    |        |
| 1948                          | 55 | 21 | 10,915 |
| 1947                          | 49 | 26 | 10,725 |

## Killer Released In \$3,500.00 Bond

Richard Percy Brown, local colored man who shot and killed his good friend, William (Lus) Midgett on Jamesville Street here last Friday evening, was released under bond in the sum of \$3,500 yesterday afternoon.

A mortgage was placed on the properties of his brothers in Halifax County to satisfy the bond which was fixed at a preliminary hearing held by Justice J. S. Ayers in the courthouse last Monday evening.

One report said that Brown, once out of jail, started to his home to get his clothes and turned away when he saw two cars parked nearby. Messengers were then sent and they also turned back, the report adding that Brown left without his clothes to visit relatives in or near Roanoke Rapids until his trial is called during the week of June 7. It isn't believed that anyone was waiting for the man, that apparently he was scared.

During the meantime, Bill Brown, who allegedly chased Percy Brown and who it is claimed carried a shot gun and a pistol for Percy Brown, planned to leave town should Percy Brown gain his freedom. Percy Brown's disappearance yesterday has relieved tension in some quarters, one report maintained.

The body of Brown's victim was removed to Washington County, his native home, for burial Tuesday afternoon.

## Officers Wrecked Two Distilleries

Raiding in Hamilton and Goose Nest Townships yesterday afternoon, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck, Deputy Roy Peel and two federal agents from Elizabeth City found and wrecked two crude liquor plants. Both were equipped with 50-gallon capacity oil drums and no beer was found at either plant.

One had just been moved to a new location and the other had not been used recently.

The illicit liquor business is in a slump just now, the officers stating that they had been able to find only four manufacturers in the county for this month.