

County Officials In Session Here Monday Morning

State Commission Agrees To Add Three Roads To Its System

Martin County's commissioners handled lengthy routine duties, cleared their calendar and adjourned before lunch here yesterday. The officials plan to meet later in the month to tackle the budget figures for the next fiscal year.

For a quite a number of years the commissioners have been, upon the request of the citizens, asking the State Highway and Public Works Commission to add new roads to the state system. A similar request was made at the meeting this week, and from time to time the commission has granted these requests. At the current meeting the commissioners were advised that the commission had added three roads at one time. The first of the three roads to be added starts at a point 1.7 miles southwest of Everetts near the E. A. Clark old home place and runs via George Keel's and Walter Beach's, a distance of about one mile. The second road to be added leads in a northwesterly direction from the old Greenville Road nine-tenths of a mile toward Paul Bailey's and John M. Bowen's farms. The third road is known as the Warren Neck Road, running from a point near Dardens to a point near the pulp mill, a distance of about two miles.

A request was received from citizens in the Farm Life section, urging the commissioners to appeal for a wider road from Manning and Gurkin's store, via Maple Grove church, P. E. Gettings' and W. G. Hardison's and others to Route 171.

In accordance with the terms of a special county law, the commissioners paid Roberson's Slaughter House \$460 for forty-six sheep killed and maimed by dogs on May 14.

In joint session with the Martin County Board of Education, the officials reappointed V. J. Spivey as chairman of the Martin County Alcoholic Beverages Control Board for a term of three years. The appointment was made subject to concurrence by the county board of health. Mr. Spivey has served as chairman of the ABC board since it was created back in 1935.

Commissioner C. A. Roberson was named to inspect the county home property.

A contract for auditing the various county departments was awarded to Frank E. Butler, CPA, of Rocky Mount, for \$550.

Tax relief orders, supported by errors, death or other valid causes were allowed, as follows: Ulysses Cherry of Williams Township, \$2; William Midgett, late of Williamston, \$2; Isoline Meeks of Williamston, \$1.25; Laura Moore, of Williamston, 63 cents; and Donald H. Jenkins of Robersonville, \$2.

Gets Thirty Days For Jail Assault

Already facing trial on three or more counts, including assault with intent to kill, Leamon Bennett, colored man, added another charge last Saturday night when he beat and battered Joe Frank Mabry in jail.

Apparently without provocation, Bennett hopped on Mabry, throwing a bowl at him and then mauling him in the eye with his fist and kicking him.

Charged with an assault, Bennett was carried before Judge J. C. Smith in the county court yesterday and was sentenced to the roads for sixty days.

Bennett said that Mabry, partly drunk, was carried to jail with two others, that he was forced into action by their cursing and rowdiness. In pleading his case he said that they carried Mabry before Judge Smith and he could find no fault with the man, and that they crucified him. "And that's what they are doing to me—crucifying me."

Bennett appealed to the higher court, and it now looks as if his cases will require the greater part of a day of the court's time.

Bond Election Vote Slated for June 15th

SCOTT HERE

Swinging into the northeastern section of the State, Kerr Scott, candidate for governor, is building up his fences for the second primary to be held on Saturday, June 26. Declaring there is a definite swing toward his candidacy, Scott is stopping here for lunch and will move on into Bertie, Chowan, Perquimans and Pasquotank Counties this afternoon.

County Without A Highway Death In Over Three Years

Only Four Counties With- out a Fatal Road Acci- dent In Past Year

RALEIGH.—When it comes to Highway Safety, Graham County holds by a long shot the best record in the State—not a single traffic death has occurred in the entire county since 1944.

Three years without a traffic fatality is some record, especially in North Carolina, where 836 highway deaths occurred in 1947, 1,028 in 1946, and 732 in 1945.

In 1945, Graham was one of four counties to go through the year without a traffic tragedy. The other three were Gates, Tyrrell, and Yancey, and all these counties got a hearty word of praise from the Motor Vehicle Department and its safety experts.

Then came '46, and the number of counties with perfect safety records dropped to three—Jones, Swain, and little Graham again. That was some record—two years in a row, and Department officials began wondering if maybe the old prediction that "what happens twice happens three times," might hold true for Graham.

When the tabulations for the entire year 1947 were in, again Graham held the record of no traffic deaths for the year. "Three other counties held perfect scores for '47—Camden, Clay, and Yancey. Yancey had reported no deaths in '45, but in '46 its motorists slipped up and four persons met violent death on the highways.

But the little mountain County of Graham, bordering on Tennessee, was still in there pitching—for three years her citizens had found other ways to die; at any rate, they were not being killed in auto accidents.

Graham's safety record is even more astounding in view of the fact that Fontana, one of the favorite vacation spots of North Carolina, is located there, and even the tourists and vacationists have not marred the perfect record.

What about '48? Again, Graham has come through. For the first

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Aged Woman Dies In County Friday

Tamer Rogers Biggs, thought to be around 100 years old, died at the home of her daughter, Anna Brown, near Williamston last Friday night. She had been in declining health for some years, but was able to be up until about three weeks ago. Just prior to that time she was able to walk with the aid of another. She had been blind for about three years.

She was married to James Biggs soon after the Civil War and he died a few years ago and was buried in the Biggs Cemetery on the Station farm.

There were eleven children born to the union, six of whom survive her. She is also survived by two grandchildren and 156 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted in the Hickory Grove Baptist Church yesterday afternoon and interment was in the cemetery there, near her old home. Her pastor, Rev. Goldus Godard, conducted the last rites.

Town's Bond Debt At Present Stands Right At \$200,000

Need for Larger Water Storage Facilities And Ex- tensions Imperative

Williamston's citizens will decide in a bond election next Tuesday whether to call for the issuance of \$100,000 in bonds for the construction of a 300,000-gallon capacity water storage and sewer and water line extensions (within the town) or live in faith with the present inadequate system.

No high pressure tactics are being employed for or against the proposal, the commissioners deciding, after a careful study of the situation as it exists, to place it before the people for a final decision.

That the expansion program will cost something is readily admitted, but it was also pointed out that unless action is taken to relieve present conditions the town stands to lose in the march of progress, not to mention the possibility of a water shortage and other risks.

The present system was installed more than a quarter century ago when there were only 1,800 people in the town. The population has been increased by about three times since then, and the recent added growth is taxing the system to a dangerous limit. In fact, there are certain periods when the customary demand cannot be met with the present facilities under normal operating conditions.

In other words, the 75,000-gallon elevated storage is not sufficient to guarantee normal demands, not to mention an emergency.

Local authorities, studying the needs, reached the conclusion that there's little else to do but go ahead with the program. They found that the present elevated tank is in bad condition, that extensive repairs are needed if it is to pass inspection much longer. The proposed program is based entirely on needs within the town, but, naturally, it will relieve the condition for all served by the present system. There are still sections of the town not served by sewer lines, and if the town's growth is to be maintained, the service must be extended.

Turning to the town's bonded debt picture, the officials find that approximately \$200,000 bonds are outstanding. Well over half that amount or \$116,000 is a hangover from the 1919-1920 program which was advanced for the initial water and electric systems. In another ten years, just about all the current bonded debt will have been retired, leaving just about \$28,000 unpaid. A considerable portion of the current bonded debt, or approximately \$80,000 would have been nearing maturity, but there was a general refunding of the town's bonds in 1941, the action

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Two Are Slightly Hurt In Accident

Jesse Samuel Fulford of Robersonville and Enna Eide who gave her address as Williamston, were slightly hurt when their car, an old 1930 model Ford, crashed into the left railing of Gray's bridge in the Farm Life section late Monday afternoon. Fulford was driving south on Highway 171 and was said to have been under the influence of some intoxicant. Charged with drunken driving he was jailed along with his companion who was booked for public drunkenness.

Fulford was cut on the lip and his companion was cut on the forehead. They were treated in the county jail.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman J. T. Rowe estimated the damage to the car at \$50 and that to the bridge at \$100, the officer stating that the car ripped away part of the railing and one post.

Fire Burns Home And Catches Two Others Saturday

Long Block of Property In West End Threatened Late In Afternoon

Fire, starting from an oil stove, almost destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Bellflower, caught two others and threatened a block of property on the Slaughter House Road in West End late Saturday afternoon. For a while it looked as if the fire would wipe out most of the homes in the long block. The town's fire department answered the call and first tackled the fire with a small water line connected directly to the truck. There was some doubt if the 1,200 feet of large hose on the truck would reach from the fire to the nearest fire hydrant on the lower end of Park Avenue in the West End settlement. With the fire gaining rapidly and convinced the small hose line was useless, the firemen started stringing out approximately 1,000 feet of hose, a call having been sent in for the town's second fire truck.

Much delay resulted in spreading the long line of hose and only limited pressure could be applied to it, but once the water started moving, the firemen beat out the big fire, put out a fire that started on the Whitaker house roof on one side and wet down the Thomas house on the other side of the Bellflower home.

Part of the roof and a small section of the front of the Bellflower home did not burn, but for all practical purposes the structure was damaged beyond repair.

The fire spread rapidly, the smoke from the composition shingles drifting across Highway 64 about one-half block away. Members of the family and neighbors and other friends could save only a few pieces of furniture from the home, but neighbors moved out most of their belongings from the adjoining homes, one report said.

The home, owned by A. Sanford Roberson, had only \$1,500 insurance, and insurance carried by the occupants on their household furnishings expired last March, making their estimated \$1,500 or \$1,800 loss complete. A canvass was made for funds for the family who lost most of their belongings in a fire about four years ago in the Clark farm near Williamston.

It was the second time the house had caught fire, firemen barely saving the structure about eight or ten years ago.

Firemen, missing the truck and trying to make it to the fire in their own conveyances, were delayed several minutes when the public crowded the streets. Some of the firemen found it necessary to park in Abbott's mill yard, a block or more from the fire.

The owner was looking over his property yesterday but it could not be learned if he planned to rebuild.

20 Tons Tobacco Burned Abroad

London, Eng.—Bales of tobacco weighing 40,000 pounds began to go up in smoke recently. The British Army are burning it.

It was lend-lease tobacco which had been kept in Tripoli warehouses since it was shipped there during the war. At present prices it could have been sold in this country for 120,000 pounds (\$480,000.)

Efforts to sell the tobacco to Egypt, Palestine and other places or to return it to the U. S. A. failed. Clause 9 of Lend-lease forbids the transport of the tobacco to Britain because it would interfere with the tobacco trade between this country and the U. S. A.

Storage charges mounted at such a rate that it took the new War Minister, Mr. Shinwell, and his experience at the Fuel Ministry to decide the best and cheapest way out would be to burn the lot.

The decision to destroy the tobacco was received by the Army authorities in Tripoli, and are the first to go up in smoke.

Soldiers must not burn it in their own pipes. That would be against the King's regulations.

Sentiment Strong For The Installation Of Parking Meters In Business District

While still detesting the things, a large majority of business men, realizing that something has to be done to help relieve the existing condition, last week-end expressed a strong sentiment for the installation of parking meters in the town's business districts. A petition, asking the business house owners to express their wishes, has not been circulated in its entirety, but the last report on it listed sixty-seven for and nine against the installation of meters. Everything being equal, it is quite likely that the town officials in their next meeting will call for bids on meters.

Chief W. E. Saunders was dispatched to the business house owners and managers with the petition, and he reports that there was no strong opposition offered, but, at the same time, no one seemed to be overjoyed by the prospect that meters would be installed. However, several said that something had to be done, that even farmers and other out-of-town patrons had spoken for meters in the belief that they could get within shouting distance of the business districts. The circulation of the petition reached a climax when one petitioner, entering opposition, called the paper back to vote "Yes" when he saw parked in front of his door the car of a clerk working in another store.

The town officials have expressed determination to eliminate the revenue feature of the meters. They are anxious to provide parking space for visitors, to work with the merchants and employees in finding out-of-the-way parking places for the homefolks.

According to some reports, the meters can be installed without any cash outlay on the part of the town.

Minor Accidents On County Roads

Three minor accidents were reported on the highways of this county during the past few days. No one was hurt and damage was limited. Patrolman J. T. Rowe and M. F. Powers reported.

Driving his Ford five-passenger coupe on U. S. 17 about four miles out of Williamston, John Dinwiddie Mobley, local young man, dropped off to sleep about 12:30 o'clock last Saturday morning and ran off the right side of the road. He was awakened when the car struck a mail box, but it was too late to miss a parked car belonging to Henry C. Moore. Mobley was not hurt and damage was limited to a broken windshield, and battered fenders. Damage to the Moore car was estimated at \$20 and that to the Mobley car at about \$50 by Patrolman Rowe who made the investigation.

Driving west on U. S. 64 about two miles out of Robersonville last Thursday afternoon, Joe S. James, RFD 1, Stokes, started to make a left turn into a private drive just as Clay A. Bennett of Greenville started to pass in his 1947 Nash. The cars had been brought almost to a stop when the Nash struck James' 1941 Chevrolet. Patrolman Powers estimated the damage at \$15 to the Chevrolet and \$30 to the Nash. No one was hurt.

Dennis Whitaker, driving a log truck toward Highway 64 on the prison camp road, started to pass Mack Bowen's Ford and sideswiped it, doing very little damage, according to Patrolman Rowe. Whitaker did not stop there, but Bowen followed him about a mile and reported the accident to the patrol.

Justice Johnson Hears Three Cases

Justice R. T. Johnson handled three cases in his court during the latter part of last week, following a very busy session earlier in the week when he had fourteen defendants before him.

Thomas Ryan, drunk and disorderly, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of the costs.

Charlie Clark and Dora Spruill, both charged with being drunk and disorderly were each fined \$2.50 and taxed with one-half the costs.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the case charging Eddie Dolphin and his wife with being drunk and disorderly.

Justice Hassell Has Five Cases

Justice John L. Hassell, inactive for several weeks, reopened his court here last evening and heard five cases.

Drunk and disorderly, Perry Little was fined \$5 and taxed with \$7.50 costs.

Sam Mungin, drunk, was fined \$10 and taxed with \$10.50 costs.

Sam Mungin, drunk and down in front of the courthouse, was fined \$5, plus \$8.50 costs.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of \$8.50 costs for being drunk.

Joe Mabry was fined \$5 and taxed with \$8.50 costs for being drunk.

Give Strong Support To Business Bureau

Organization To Carry On Work of Various Agencies

Leaders Confident \$5,000 Goal Will Be Reached Within a Few Days

A better business bureau—an organization designed to handle duties ordinarily carried on by various agencies—is almost a certainty for Williamston, according to a preliminary report released yesterday by a representative of the committee.

Briefly stated the proposed bureau is being organized with the view of coordinating the work ordinarily handled by various agencies. The bureau proposed to establish a credit rating department, to fix holiday closing dates and hours, promote special trade events, cooperate with the tobacco market in a general advertising program, prepare information about the town for distribution from the town's various agencies and discuss various problems affecting the trade and the town in general.

Reporting on the organization drive to date, a member of the committee explained that a large portion of the town had been canvassed, that a large majority of the business leaders favored the proposal, and that only one withheld his support.

The plan calls for \$5,000 to finance the organization the first year, and the leaders are confident the amount can and will be raised.

Commenting on the organization, a representative of the special committee said:

"Williamston is in need of some such organization to act as a clearing house for the problems that come before the business men. Also, to act as a sort of mediator when it comes to settling traffic problems, closing days and hours, 'special trade days', to work with the Tobacco Board of Trade, and to answer inquiries from people wishing to come to Williamston, or those trying to get information about our town.

"Before the drive is over, the canvassing committee hopes to enlist every business man, both financially, physically, and morally. If all the merchants and professional men participate, then it will be a good thing. If just a few contribute and work, then it will wither as other organizations have done. Also, there is some involved—if this is divided among many then the cost is small, but if just a few have to support it, then it

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Breaks Arm In Mill Accident Here Monday

Elbert Person, young colored man, suffered a compound fracture of the left arm below the elbow while working at Whitley's saw mill on Sycamore Street here yesterday shortly before noon.

The man was pulled into a piece of machinery when his shirt got caught in a set screw. His shirt torn away, the man ran nearly two blocks to the Williamston Supply Company office where he was placed in a car and carried to a doctor for treatment.

Over Six Hundred Lose Licenses In State Last Month

Over 6,600 Convicted of Traffic Law Violations During Period

RALEIGH.—During May, 665 persons lost their driving licenses in North Carolina because of drunken driving, the Motor Vehicle Department announced today.

This compared with 842 persons who lost their licenses for the same offense during May of last year, and brought total drunken driving convictions for 1948 to 4,024. The May drunken driving convictions were nearly 300 less than in April, when 959 motorists had their licenses revoked for this offense.

Revocations and suspensions processed during May totaled 1,023. That included 66 persons caught driving drunk outside the State, 40 for driving drunk and miscellaneous, 36 for speeding over 75 miles per hour, 32 for transporting liquor, 13 for two offenses of speeding over 55 miles per hour; 19 for larceny of automobile; and 28 for driving after licenses had been revoked.

Seven persons lost their licenses for being habitual violators of the traffic laws, four for failure to show proof of financial responsibility, six for hit-and-run, and seven for aiding and abetting in transporting liquor. In addition, 416 other drivers were convicted on charges of reckless driving, bringing to 1,872 total reckless driving convictions for the year. However, reckless driving requires no revocation or suspension on first offense.

A total of 6,603 other motorists were convicted of traffic violations which do not constitute a revocation or suspension for the first offense.

The leading convictions in this class were for speeding, with 2,721 offenders, bringing to 111,251 total speeding offenses for the year. Other violations, failing to have driver's license, 1,224; faulty equipment, 579; improper lights, 292; driving on wrong side of road, 52; failing to stop at intersection, 46; failing to stop when entering highway, 24; failing to dim lights, 29; passing on curve, 28; running through red lights, 331; passing school bus loading or unloading, 57.

Of the total violators, 5,619 were North Carolinians, and the remaining 984 were out-of-state motorists.

June Marriages Off To Big Start

If the present trend is maintained throughout the month, June will see a record number of marriages in this county, according to an advance report coming from the office of the Martin County register of deeds.

Seven marriage licenses were issued in the first few days to the following couples:

George H. Wynne and Mamie Estelle Adams, both of Williamston; Cecil H. Williams of Washington, D. C., and Augusta Lewis of New Bern; Sylvester Fuller Bailey and Elizabeth Everett, both of Raleigh; George Dewey Wade and Ruth Ford, both of Robersonville; Arson William Hunt of Plymouth and Eunice Jane Phillips of Williamston; William T. Howell and Reva May Wilks, both of Robersonville; Frank Saunders Weaver and Lucy Marie Andrews, both of Williamston.

Name Assistant Home Agent for the County

Miss Agnes Beal has been named assistant home demonstration agent for Martin County, succeeding Miss Garnette Crocker who recently resigned after an effective work to enter the maternity school.

The committee chairman: Procedure and by-laws, R. L. Coburn and J. H. Edwards; program, Mrs. Irving Margolis and Mrs. John L. Goff; membership, Mrs. W. L. Skings and Mrs. V. E. Brown; finance, A. J. Manning and Mrs. G. G. Woolard; social, Mrs. George Peel and Mrs. H. P. Mobley; music, Mrs. Beecher Patterson and Miss Grace Talton; lunch room, W. B. Gaylord and Miss Ruth Manning; publicity, F. M. Manning and B. G. Stewart.