

## Tragedy Hit Home In Griffins Last Thursday Morning

### Funeral Service Held Friday for Fenner Hardison, Jr., 11 Months

Tragedy struck for the second time in this county within a few days when Fenner Lesco Hardison, Jr., eleven months old, was choked to death in his crib at the home of his parents in Griffins Township last Thursday morning at 11:00 o'clock. It is not certain whether the little fellow died of a broken neck or was choked to death. He was pronounced dead when he was brought to the local hospital by his mother and Rev. W. B. Harrington, a neighbor.

Placed in his crib about 9:30 o'clock that morning, the little fellow was found sleeping soundly when Mrs. Hardison went to the room during several intervals between 9:30 and 10:30 o'clock. About 11:00 o'clock she quit her work in the kitchen and went to the room again, finding the child with his head caught between the frame and the hinged lid of the crib. Apparently just a short time previously the child had awakened, raised up and pushed up the loose end of the lid, catching his head between the lid and the frame. If he had cried the mother and his grandmother, Mrs. Della Hardison, were too far away to have heard him. He was a large child for his age and an idol in the home.

He was the son of Fenner and Fern Peel Hardison. Surviving besides his parents are two sisters, Annie Jean and Betty Lou Hardison.

Funeral services were conducted in the Piney Grove Baptist Church last Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by the family pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington, assisted by Elder P. E. Getsinger. Interment was in the family plot in the Hardison Mill Cemetery.

Another child, nine-month-old Roger Eugene Roberson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Roberson, was choked to death by a small piece of pecan meat the Saturday before.

## Superior Court Quits Thursday

Scheduled to sit for two weeks for the trial of civil cases only, the Martin County Superior Court folded its tent for the term last Thursday afternoon, scheduling those cases on the Friday calendar for trial during the regular term of the court next week.

Proceedings not previously reported in the special two-week term which actually was in action less than three days the first week and hardly two days last week, follow:

In the case of Milton James against Willie D. Boston, the jury said that Boston was the owner of the steers, but that he was to pay the plaintiff the remainder of the alleged contract purchase price plus interest from 1944.

The case of Joseph Smallwood against George M. Stevenson was placed in the hands of a referee. Claims in the ~~involving land-lord-tenant~~ will be heard by Referee E. S. Peel.

A judgment in the sum of \$94.24 was given to the plaintiff in the case of W. M. Baker against R. J. Brock.

## Attacks Car And Flees To Woods

Defying the rules of the road, a loose mule, belonging to Clarence Williams, ran head on into the 1942 Studebaker car being driven by William G. Matthews of Robersonville on the Robersonville-Gold Point Highway last Thursday evening at 8:00 o'clock. His head badly cut, the animal fled to the woods and could not be found until the following morning. Patrolman R. P. Narron, investigating the accident, said they looked for the animal three hours that night. Matthews was meeting another car and could not turn out of the mule's way.

No one was hurt but \$65 damage was done to the car.

## Advance Plans For Sweet Potato Market In County

Plans for establishing a recognized sweet potato market in Martin County were advanced another step last Friday when members of a special Farm Bureau Committee met and discussed the purchase of certain equipment and the introduction of certified seed. The action was taken subject to approval by a mass meeting of farmers and other interested citizens to be held in the county the latter part of December or early in January.

It was pointed out that no huge amount of money would be needed to establish a market, that possibly machinery necessary for grading and packing potatoes could be had for a nominal sum. M. M. Levin, a member of the committee and one of the best posted authorities on marketing

in the county, was asked to investigate machinery costs and other factors incident to establishing the market. Mr. Levin plans a trip to the south shortly and while there he will make investigations for the committee.

The outlook for the sweet potato market is improving and should continue to improve after the holiday season, and some marketing specialists are recommending to growers to be in no hurry to sell.

Plans for the mass meeting will be announced later. During the meantime farmers and others interested in this section's economy are invited to consider the effect a 22 percent reduction in peanuts will have along with curtailed tobacco acreage, and the potential value sweet potatoes will offer as a commercial crop.

## Complete Plans For Friendship Offering

### Food And Products Will Be Moved To Center This Week

#### First Reports Very Encouraging, But United Effort Vitrally Necessary

Plans have been completed for filling a box car with food and farm products in this county for starving war victims overseas. Chairman Jesse W. Sumner and Mayo Little said Sunday following a meeting of the county committee in Robersonville Sunday afternoon.

Plans have been made to store the food and farm products in the depot at Williamston, and some of the solicitors are making arrangements to start making deliveries at once, the chairman said.

Handling the townships of Jamesville, Williams, Griffins, Bear Grass and Williamston, Mr. Sumner said that his committees are complete and are working. In several of these townships, the canvassers will tour designated roads, collect peanuts, corn, pecans and other non-perishable farm food products, and carry them to a township center for delivery in larger trucks to the main depot in Williamston. The canvassers are being asked to keep a record of the gifts and the names of the donors, and turn them in when delivery is made to the main receiving center.

With Mrs. W. C. Wynne and Sidney Beacham as chairmen in Bear Grass, the work there is progressing rapidly. Reports from nearly every district in the county are very encouraging, but united effort and hard work will be necessary if Martin County is to rank along with seventy other counties in the State and be represented by banners when the Friendship Train pulls into Norfolk.

It was announced that T. L. Roberson, Emer Griffin, Lucian Peel, Ralph ~~Peel~~, Delmas Rogers, Lucille Council, H. G. Harrison, L. A. Bullock, Mrs. Luther Brown, ~~William Brown~~, E. C. Harrison, Mrs. Cecil Leggett and Irvin Terry are busy in Bear Grass. Other Township chairmen have named assistants and there have been quite a few volunteers but the lists were not immediately available.

Chairman Little announced yesterday that most of his workers in Cross Roads, Robersonville, Poplar Point, Hamilton and Goose Nest were busy, that they were canvassing their territory and getting a list of gifts. Later in the week they will cover the territory and pick up the food and products for delivery directly to the Williamston center. Chairman Mayo Hardison is being assisted in Poplar Point by Mrs. Ben James and Mrs. LeRoy Taylor. In Hamilton, Chairman Nat W. Johnson is being aided in the initial work by J. B. Harrington, Melvin Crisp and Minton Beach, Jr. Up in Hassell,

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## County Officers Start New Term Monday Morning

### Clerk Of Court Swears In Commissioners After A Formal Fashion

Informal exercises, marking the end of a long period of service for two members of the Martin County Board of Commissioners, were packed with much feeling Monday morning when Messrs. R. A. Haislip and Joshua L. Coltrain sat around the table for their last meeting and made a few impromptu statements as they turned over their chairs to their two young promising successors and retired from the commissioners' room.

Everything was in a hurry, but the last meeting of the old board, convened at 9:50 o'clock, moved along smoothly, the congenial family that had worked and "sweated" together for so long a time, paying minute attention to the reading of the minutes of the November meeting and inspecting the November bills contracted by the old group. No old business was brought up for discussion and Messrs. Coltrain and Haislip, retiring of their own accord, withdrew.

Chairman John Henry Edwards told them that it had been a pleasure to work with both of them, that he knew the people of the county were grateful for their work.

Pointing out that he had served as a member of the board twice as long as any other man, Mr. Coltrain said he had served to the best of his ability, that it was good to know the people appreciated those efforts. "I'm going out with the feeling that I did the best I could. And while there were a few things I did I now regret, I guess it all worked out for the best," Mr. Coltrain said. Concluding his timely and impressive remarks, the retiring official pleaded with the new members to work in harmony with the others and urged the entire board to work in harmony with others in the county, especially the board of education, an agency which Mr. Coltrain and the old board had supported as far as it was possible for them to do so in behalf of the county's youth.

Declaring that it had been pleasant to work with the board members, Mr. Haislip, with a cheery smile, said there is a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that he and Mr. Coltrain were turning their chairs over to "good hands."

At 10:10 o'clock, Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne swore in the recently elected members, including John Henry Edwards of Williamston, W. M. Harrison of Bear Grass and C. Abram Roberson of Robersonville, the old members, and the two new members, Johnson and Martin.

The board soon perfected its working organization. Commissioner Edwards nominated Commissioner Roberson for chairman, but Commissioner Roberson, countering with the argument that Commissioner Edwards was more conveniently located, tossed the nomination back. Commissioner Martin seconded the Edwards nomination and election

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## Three Are Hurt In Car Accident

Three persons were hurt, none believed very badly, when their car, a 1940 Chevrolet, went out of control and was ditched one-half mile west of Jamesville on U. S. 64 about 12:15 o'clock last Saturday morning.

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## Uniform Increase Substituted For Revaluation of Real Estate

### NEW COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS To Increase Real Estate Values 10 Percent For 1949



Messrs. Henry S. Johnson of Hamilton and C. C. (Frosty) Martin of Jamesville, two of Martin County's promising young men, entered upon their duties as members of the County Board of Commissioners Monday, succeeding Messrs. R. A. Haislip and Joshua L. Coltrain.

## Herbert Benjamin Dies In Hospital Here Late Sunday

### Funeral Service Is Being Held In Presbyterian Church Today at 3

Herbert Cleveland Benjamin, retired postal employee and a resident of Williamston for a number of years, died in the local hospital at 11:30 o'clock Sunday night after a long period of declining health. In recent months he had received treatment in various hospitals and was getting along very well until about three weeks ago when his condition became serious and he entered the hospital here.

Mr. Benjamin was born in Whitehall, New York, 75 years ago on December 3, 1873, and spent his early life there, marrying in early manhood, Miss Gertrude Elizabeth Murray in 1895. He was a son of the late Julio Buell Benjamin and wife, Alice Grant Benjamin. He was an engineer as a young man, and then entered government service, locating in Lake Village, Arkansas, where the family made its home until about three and one-half years ago when he and Mrs. Benjamin came here to make their home with a daughter, Mrs. Jesse Whitley.

During his stay here he made many friends and greatly enjoyed fishing and getting out of doors. Despite declining health, he remained cheerful until the end.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church here and his pastor, Rev. James I. Lowry, assisted by Rev. E. R. Shuller, Rev. John Hardy and Rev. Stewart B. Simms, conducted the funeral service there this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Surviving are Mrs. Benjamin, a daughter, Mrs. Whitley, both of Williamston; two grandsons, Herbert and John Whitley, both of Williamston; two granddaughters, Eleanor and Persons of Greenwood, Mass., and Elizabeth Whitley of Williamston; and two great-grandsons, Herbert, Jr., and David Whitley.

## ROANOKE FLOOD

Fed by heavy rains throughout the basin in recent days, the Roanoke River reached 12.4 feet—2.4 feet in flood—at noon yesterday, a report stating that it had dropped one-tenth of an inch but apparently was on a stand shortly before noon today.

A second rise is predicted, one report stating that it is likely to reach fifteen feet at this point next Monday. Since the first prediction fell short by more than one and one-half feet, it is anticipated by some that the second rise will fall a little short.

## HOLIDAY CHANGE

A change in the holiday schedule for all Martin County schools was ordered by the board of education in session Monday. Instead of closing on the 17th and reopening on the 30th of this month, the schools will close for Christmas at noon on Wednesday, the 22nd, and reopen on January 3. The change was ordered to make it possible for the schools to complete a full fourth month before Christmas.

The board purchased 5 1/4 acres of Stevenson land in Robersonville for a playground and athletic field, paying \$10,000 for the property, including a tenant house.

## Young Man Found Dead In Bed At Home Yesterday

### Funeral This Afternoon for Robert Clayton Price In Cross Roads

Robert Clayton Price, 35, was found dead in bed at his rooming house here on Warren Street yesterday morning at 7:30 o'clock when a member of the family went to the room to change the bed linen. He is believed to have died about 7:30 o'clock Sunday night, the apparent victim of a heart attack. After working much of the day, he went to his room about 6:00 o'clock that evening and went to bed. He was heard snoring a short time later and was apparently in his usual health.

The son of Ben and Mamie White Price, he was born in Bear Grass Township in November, 1913, had spent his early life on the farm there and attended

seventeen years of age, he moved to Danville, Virginia, marrying Thelma Thompson and making his home there. He entered the Navy in 1944. He served in the Pacific Theater and was discharged in early 1946, locating in Williamston where he had since been associated with his brother, Ophelus, in the operation of a filling station on Washington Street.

Surviving are two children, Nancy and Bobby Price, of Danville; his mother, Mrs. H. P. Wobbleton; two brothers, Ophelus Price of Williamston, and Dallas Price of Danville; a half-brother, Virgil Wobbleton of Cross Roads; and a half-sister, Mrs. Calvin Broomfield of Danville.

Funeral services will be conducted at the home of his mother Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Elder A. B. Ayers and Rev. W. B. Harrington. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

His death was the second traceable to heart trouble among comparatively young men of the town in recent days.

## Bernice Rogerson Funeral Thursday In County Church

### Young Man Made Supreme Sacrifice In Drive On Rome In May, 1944

Funeral services will be conducted in the Bear Grass Primitive Baptist Church Thursday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Pfc. Bernice L. Rogerson, young county man who made the supreme sacrifice for his country in Italy on May 26, 1944. The pastor, Elder Elmer Stevenson and Rev. W. B. Harrington, will conduct the service. Interment will be in Williamston's Woodlawn Cemetery where a detail from Robersonville's Murray Cargile American Legion Post will be in charge of the military rites.

The young man's body, accompanied by military escort, will be delivered to the Biggs Funeral Home in Williamston Wednesday where it will lie in state until shortly before 2:00 o'clock Wednesday afternoon when it will be carried to the church in Bear Grass.

The young man, leaving the Bear Grass High School, entered the service on August 19, 1943, and received his basic training at Ft. McClelland, Alabama. He went overseas in January, 1944, and was killed less than four months later when the American forces broke out of the Anzio Beachhead and started the big push toward Rome. It was said that when the push was launched so many guns were fired that weather conditions were affected and that rain fell for duration of the thirty-minute attack and while the sun was shining brightly. The young man was a member of Company B, 15th Infantry, Third Division of the Fifth Army. The division in the course of five months lost approximately 10,000 men, including young Rogerson's neighbor and playmate, Asa J. Taylor, who also made the supreme sacrifice during the drive on Rome.

Pfc. Rogerson, a son of C. Gilbert and Ethel Mizelle Rogerson, was born in Bear Grass on March 25, 1923, and spent most of his life on the farm there.

Surviving besides his parents, are six sisters, Mrs. J. A. Lilley and Mrs. Elbert Griffin of Williamston, Mrs. D. E. Whitehurst of Norfolk, and Misses Grace, Janie and Louvenia Rogerson of the home; four brothers, Mack G. Rogerson of Bethel, Samuel M. Rogerson of Williamston and Carroll G. and John P. Rogerson, both of the home.

His body is the twentieth of a Martin County young man to have been returned home for burial in native soil.

Auto Turns Over Near Here Sunday

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One person was slightly bruised and shocked, but three others escaped without a scratch when their car, a 1947 Oldsmobile, turned over on U. S. Highway, two miles south of here Sunday shortly before noon.

Jos. Sandler, accompanied by his wife and two children, was driving north on the road when at George Ward's home, thence east to Old Everett Mill road via

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## Slightly Hurt In Truck Accident

Willie James Melton, log truck driver, suffered slight chest injuries, when the machine he was driving went out of control and turned over near here on U. S. 64 last Thursday afternoon shortly after 5:00 o'clock.

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## IMPROVING

Suffering with a heart condition for four weeks, Mr. Exum Ward, Sr., mayor of West End without portfolio, is improving right along at his home there, it was learned late yesterday.