

## Fate Of Chowan Bridge Hanging In The Balance

Committee to Present Problem To Governor Scott In Raleigh, Shortly

Appearing before a special group of representatives from five counties at a meeting in Edenton yesterday afternoon, District Highway Engineer Merrill Evans of Ahoskie explained that the condition of the Chowan River bridge was serious, but assured the group that the bridge would not be closed to light traffic. Supported by District Highway Engineer J. T. McKim, the commissioner pointed out that a diver was at that time examining the piling, that the task would require four or five days, and that complete tests will be made with the use of a cyffer dam. It will be two or three weeks before the real condition of the bridge is determined, the commissioner said.

It was explained that the bridge is being closed to heavy traffic, that trucks with two axles were limited to eight tons and vehicles with more than two axles were limited to eleven tons. Heavy busses have been banned and the bus companies are operating light units between Edenton and Williamston.

Speaking very frankly and expressing a willingness to do all he could to help relieve the condition before his term expires the end of this month, Commissioner Evans said it had been known for two or three years that the bridge was in need of extensive repairs, but that the serious condition of the structure did not come to light until about two weeks ago when the bridge almost gave away under the weight of a heavy vehicle. He said that a meeting was held with legislators from this section of the State in Raleigh where the condition of the bridge was discussed.

Explaining the condition of the bridge, Engineer McKim said that the trouble did not originate over night, that a solution had been sought for some time to the deck problem, that the matter had been referred to the State Highway Engineer, bridge engineer and commission chairman. He said that the concrete piling from a point about one foot above the water line to the cap or bridge deck was in good condition, that deterioration had set in from about the water line down two or three feet, that the piling had rotted to a maximum depth of about two and one-half inches, leaving the structural steel exposed in some cases. More than one hundred piling were in that condition, the engineer explaining that wave action or ice could have hastened the deterioration. He explained that samples of the piling were being forwarded to the laboratories to see if the Edenton water used in their manufacture had anything to do with the deterioration.

Discussing the bridge further, Commissioner Evans said that it was estimated two years ago that \$800,000 would be needed to rebuild the top structure of the bridge, that one and three-quarter millions of dollars would be needed to build a new structure. "And

(Continued on page eight)

## Firemen Called Out Here Friday Night

Volunteer firemen were called out about 10:00 o'clock last Friday night when fire threatened the Essey Jones home on East Main Street. The fire was confined to a mattress and very little damage resulted.

## ROUND-UP

Eight persons, including a mentally ill patient, were rounded up and jailed by local, county and state officers here over the week-end.

Five were booked for public drunkenness, and one each for disorderly conduct and larceny and receiving.

Three of the eight were white, and the ages of the group ranged from 20 to 48 years.

## Take Winning Positions in Town Primary Here Monday



In one of the most intensive primary elections ever held here, local citizens yesterday nominated five commissioners. (left to right) N. C. Green, David Moore, W. O. Griffin, Leman Barnhill and K. D. Worrell, and a mayor (lower center) Robert H. Cowen to head their town government for the two-year term beginning in June. The contests, conducted on a high plane, were close with a matter of only three votes separating some of the winners.

ment for the two-year term beginning in June. The contests, conducted on a high plane, were close with a matter of only three votes separating some of the winners.

## Farm Bureau Elects Officers In County

### POOR FISHING

Seine fishing in the Roanoke at Jamesville was described as "poor" yesterday when the individual "hauls" netted between 200 and 500 herring and just a few other types of fish. However, the drift nets were picking up about 100 herring at a haul on Sunday.

Most of the catches are being sold right off the battery. Next Monday (Easter) is expected to climax the season for the seine, but operations continue well into May.

## Club Federation Meets Tomorrow

The 24th District Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs will be held here Wednesday, April 13, at 10:30 a. m. at the Baptist Church. Mrs. John H. Oden, president for the district, will preside at the meeting. Welcomes will be brought by the mayor, Robert H. Cowen, and Mrs. W. S. Gurganus, president of the Martin County HDC County Council.

The county report will be given by Mrs. Henry Early. The guest speaker for the day, Dr. I. G. Greer, of the State Medical Care Commission, will be introduced by the county farm agent, Miss Ruth Current, State Home Agent, and Mrs. George Apperson, State Federation president, are expected to attend and bring greetings from the State office. The Williamston High School Green Wave Band will give an exhibition to close the morning session. Lunch will be in the Williamston Woman's Club Building.

During the afternoon session county reports will be given, committee reports, and a team demonstration by 4-H'ers from Beaufort County. All clubwomen are urged to attend.

of the Green Wave Band, said the band program will consist of a parade and drill routine on Church Street between Smithwick and Haughton featuring the majorettes.

Incidentally, it has been disclosed that the band will not go to Rocky Mount for the Gallopade as that event has been postponed and the band has cancelled plans for the trip.

## Millions Receive Old-Age Pensions

At the end of last year, according to the Social Security Administration, about 2,300,000 persons were receiving monthly old-age and survivors' benefits under the federal social security program. During the year the monthly payments totaled about \$525,000,000, while another \$32,000,000 was paid out in lump sums. Many eligible persons, the administration said, do not receive benefits

## Making Plans For Big Barbecue To Be Held May 13th

Chas. L. Daniel and All The Other Officers Re-elected Last Friday Night

Chas. L. Daniel was re-elected for his tenth year as president of the Martin County Bureau at a meeting of the organization's members in the courthouse last Friday evening. The membership, placing a stamp of approval of the organization's leadership, also re-elected Sam T. Everett of Robersonville, vice president, and Mayo Hardison of Poplar Point, secretary-treasurer. The board of directors, also re-elected by unanimous vote, includes, Geo. Oglesby, Hamilton; Henry Early, Goose Nest; S. T. Everett, Robersonville; Mayo Hardison, Poplar Point; G. H. Forbes, Cross Roads; H. U. Peel, Bear Grass; D. V. Clayton, Williamston; J. Carl Griffin, Jamesville; C. L. Daniel, Williams; and George Griffin, Griffiths. Mr. Daniel is also a director of the State organization.

The meeting which, in addition to the election of officers, made plans for the annual barbecue and appropriated \$150 for the Fat Stock Show to be held on Friday, May 13 in the Planters Warehouse at Williamston.

Opening the meeting, President Daniel declared that the Farm Bureau had been a prime factor in improving the economy in the South, that it had taken little and made much. Pleading for younger farmers to move up and take an active part in Farm Bureau leadership, Mr. Daniel said that the man who enters Farm Bureau work with the right spirit will receive a greater return than in any other thing. He said that cooperation had made the Farm Bureau a success in Martin County, that all had pulled together for better things for all.

Declaring that there are any number of other farmers who could make a better president than he, Mr. Daniel suggested that it was time for a change. The meeting ignored the plea and went down the line with a unanimous vote for all the old officers. "I appreciate the honor," Mr. Daniel said after his re-election. "There's no salary, but there is much consolation in working for a good cause," the president said, adding that he would do his best for the organization during the 1949-50 year.

The president appealed to the board of directors, urging them to attend meetings more often and to take part in the district and state meetings.

Committees were named for making arrangements and preparing for the annual barbecue, as follows:

T. B. Brandon, Johnny Gurkin, Mayo Hardison, J. Carl Griffin, (Continued from Page Seven)



## Specialist Speaks On Sweet Potatoes

Meeting with the Farm Bureau sweet potato committee and farm agents last Friday in the county agricultural building, Henry Covington, State Extension Service specialist, discussed sweet potatoes and offered several timely suggestions.

He pointed out that the best quality sweet potatoes come from vine cuttings, but that most of the potatoes had already been bedded for this year. He recommended one-eighth pound of commercial fertilizer for each bushel of potatoes bedded, that the fertilizer should be spread on the bed.

To prevent scurf, the specialist recommended that about one inch be cut from the plant root.

He suggested that farmers make certain of the source of their plants as a precautionary measure against introducing new types of diseases.

There is a demand for certified sweet potato seed, and farmers interested in growing certified seed should contact the office of the county agent not later than Friday of this week. Certified seed must be grown from vine cuttings cut from certified seed, the specialist explaining that only two inspections are made, one to make certain that there are not more than five plants affected by wilt per acre, and the other after the harvest.

## Practical Nurses Meet In Raleigh

More than 1,000 practical nurses are expected to attend the annual meeting of the North Carolina Licensed Practical Nurses Association, Inc., in Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium on Thursday of this week. Several are planning to attend from this section.

Prominent religious leaders and noted educators are to address the meeting, it was announced.

## HOLIDAY

For the first time in the history of the town all stores and business firms will observe Easter Monday by closing their places of business. On Wednesday, April 27, the stores will begin observing the half-holidays and the custom will be followed until the tobacco market opens.

## Coltrain Considering The Withdrawal of His Appeal

Appealing from the life sentence imposed upon him by Judge Chester Morris in the Martin County Superior Court the 30th of last month for the murder of W. Thomas Roberson last January 26, John R. Coltrain is reliably reported to be considering the withdrawal of his appeal. However, no official action has been taken to stop the appeal, and should such action be taken it is hardly expected to follow within the next two or three weeks. One report stated that the task of transcribing the massive evidence in the case by the court stenographer, Mr. Walker Worth, in Raleigh is being held up for the present.

Coltrain held a ten-minute conference with members of his family and his counsel, Attorneys Critcher and Gurganus of Williamston and Albion Dunn of Greenville in the county jail last Friday afternoon, but no official announcement was released. It was stated, however, that the prisoner is considering withdrawing his appeal, but that no official action in that direction had been taken.

If and when a definite decision on the withdrawal of the appeal is reached, attorneys would go before the clerk of superior court and announce the plan of action, and the removal of the prisoner to Central Prison in Raleigh would follow immediately.

## Britain's Proposed Import Cuts Would Affect U.S. Acreage

One Report Declares Britain Plans Ninety Percent Import Reduction

Washington, D. C.—Cigarette tobacco acreage in the 1949 crop, understood to have been under official consideration here for the past several weeks, apparently has been thrown into complete confusion by Great Britain's newly disclosed plan to cut leaf tobacco imports by approximately 90 percent in the first six months of this year.

Basis of the new complication is a report issued in London by Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer and British economic "czar," embodying a proposal to cut the United Kingdom's imports of tobacco from a valuation of \$31,000,000 in the second half of 1948 to \$8,000,000 in the first half of 1949.

The import reduction, the Cripps report said, was made in connection with a plan for maintenance of current high levels of taxation, now adjusted to require British smokers to pay the equivalent of 70 cents per pack of cigarettes.

In connection with the proposed southern tobacco-producing areas of the United States, for the past two months, there had been growing optimism over prospects for revival of the potentially tremendous British market for

(Continued on Page Seven)

## Make Available More Nitrogen

Those farmers who are shooting for a 100-bushel per acre yield of corn may share in an extra allotment of top dressing, according to Agent Jesse Sumner. Thirty tons of ANL (20.5 percent nitrogen) top dressing are being made available, but the farmer sharing in the extra allotment is to agree to plant at least one acre of hybrid corn according to recommendations offered by the Experiment Station.

Farmer interested in the special nitrogen allotment are directed to apply to the office of the county agent for a purchase certificate.

## WARNING

The highway patrol this week issued a solemn warning to all motorists, urging them to dim their light when driving at night.

State law directs motorists to dim their lights at night, and the patrol can be expected to "bear down" on those motorists who do not comply with the law. Violators will be carried into court without further warning and will be subjected to fines and court costs.

## Herbert T. Hyman Dies In Virginia

Herbert Theodore Hyman, native of Hamilton, died at his home in Richmond last Friday and was buried in the Virginia city Sunday, friends were advised here.

A son of the late Samuel Lafayette Hyman and wife, Sallie E. Hyman, he was born in Hamilton on March 31, 1872, according to department records.

He spent his early life in Hamilton but lived in Virginia for many years before returning to this county and locating in Williamston where he worked as a typewriter until his health failed completely some months ago. Since that time he had lived with relatives in Richmond.

He was first married to Annie Smith of Lynchburg and one child was born to that union. His second marriage was to Esther Hamilton of Raleigh and two children survive that union.

## Officers Capture 50-Gallon Still

Raiding in the Free Union section of Jamesville Township shortly after 4:00 o'clock Monday morning, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel captured a 50-gallon red hot liquor still. Warned of the officers' approach, the operator moved away, taking the still with him and leaving a roaring fire. The officers poured out two barrels of sugar beer and captured the copper kettle.

Heavy smoke helped the officers locate the plant.

## Two Board Members And Mayor Retained In Monday Primary

### BLUE MOLD

Blue mold is attacking tobacco plants in nearly every section of the county, but, with few exceptions, the attack has not proven disastrous as yet. One Bear Grass Township farmer was quoted as saying that his plants, varying from four to five inches, had been "cooked pretty bad". Most of the reports state that the mold is centered in a few spots in the beds, that the tips of the leaves are curling up.

Farmer Dave Daniel stated they planned to transplant the first of the crop this week, but that blue mold made its appearance and the task has been delayed indefinitely.

## Barnhill, Griffin And Moore New Members of Board

Over 1,000 Votes Cast In Big Town Primary; New Term Begins In June

Participating in their second municipal primary election, 1,035 local citizens shook up their town governmental body yesterday when they ousted two members of the old board by narrow margins but retained the mayor and two old board members, a third new board member moving in to fill the position made vacant by the death of G. H. Harrison about three months ago.

Robert H. Cowen held to the mayor's post over W. Iverson Skinner, 530 to 484.

In the commissioners' race, N. C. Green led the field of thirteen candidates with 758 votes. David Moore took second place with 641 votes to lead the new candidates. W. O. (Landy) Griffin was third with 592 votes, while Leman Barnhill, a third new candidate, moved in with 525 votes. K. D. Worrell, old board member, was retained by a minority of 408 votes to complete the new board.

The eight other candidates for commissioners polled the following votes:

Ben D. Courtney, 393; Chas. H. Godwin, Sr., 371; D. R. Davis, 307; John H. Gurganus, 256; Roy Ward, 253; M. M. Levin, 213; Julian Harrell, 94; L. Closs Roberson, 40.

The primary, virtually meaning the election of the five nominees, was without incident. The colored electorate polled approximately 150 votes, and the polls attracted fairly large crowds from early morning until the returns were announced at 8:30 o'clock last evening. While a few persons living just outside the town limits voted, their weight apparently was not of sufficient force to affect the outcome.

It was a positive election in that there was a small opposition vote, the voters admittedly finding it difficult to decide just who to vote for in such a big field.

Approximately 21 tickets were ignored or ruined in the race for mayor, while an estimated 323 voters scratched their tickets in the race for commissioners. One voter favored an expanded town government when he voted for both candidates for mayor and seven commissioners.

The nominee for mayor and nominees for commissioners now go into a general election on Tuesday, May 3, but since there is no opposition party and little prospect for an independent ticket, the primary nominations yesterday are recognized as equalling election.

In accordance with a decision reached at its February meeting, the town board is scheduled to appoint David Moore, high man in the group of new candidates to fill the position made vacant by Mr. Harrison's death.

## Pleased With Showing Made in Primary Race

Commenting on the race for town commissioner in the primary yesterday, Candidate Meyer M. Levin said he was well pleased that he made a good showing for a beginner.

## MEET WEDNESDAY

A meeting of the Martin County Athletic Association will be held in the courthouse here Wednesday night at 7:30 o'clock, President L. R. Everett announced yesterday.

Principal business before the meeting will be election of officers and reading of financial and other reports. A previously scheduled meeting was not held because of inability of some of the officers to attend.

## Fourteen Licenses To Wed Are Issued In Martin County

Issuance Last Month Small, Last For Any March Since The Year 1940

Fourteen marriage licenses were issued in this county last month by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger. The issuance, maintaining a fairly definite trend in little old Cupid's progress, was the smallest for any March since 1940, and about two-thirds the normal number for each year in the past ten. During the first three months of this year forty-three licenses were issued in the county as compared with seventy-eight issued in the corresponding period of last year.

The fourteen licenses were issued, seven to white and seven to colored couples last month, as follows:

### White

Robert J. Sheridan of Orange, N. J., and Mary Trulsh Peel, Williamston.

William Gardner and Hazel Smith, both of Washington.

Odus Whitaker and Christine Jones, both of RFD 2, Robersonville.

Dallas Clarence Leggett and Edna Earl Mobley, both of Williamston.

Halsey Rudolph Hardison of Jamesville and Bernice Murial Bowen, RFD 2, Williamston.

Clarence Edmondson of Hamilton and Velma Bullock of RFD 1, Oak City.

Ralph Brown Strickland, RFD 1, Oak City, and Irene Scott of Oak City.

### Colored

S. B. Brown of Oak City and Isabella Jones of Lawrence.

Scrap Baker and Ida Rogers, both of Williamston.

William Sam Mabry and Annie Florence Huff, both of Williamston.

Clyde Biggs, Jr., and Doris Godard, both of Williamston.

Andrew L. Jordan, Jr., and Virginia Jordan, both of Windsor.

George Lester Land, RFD 3, Williamston, and Mary Lucille Council, of RFD 2, Williamston.

James Curtis Long and Eunice Lucille Moore, both of Williamston.

## Two Are Slightly Hurt In Accident

Two passengers on a school bus were slightly hurt when the brakes failed and the machine ran into a ditch and turned over on its side. Very little damage was done to the bus, Patrolman B. W. Parker, making the investigation, reported.

Owen McNeil, of Oak City, was driving into the highway in Parmele from a street leading to the Parmele High School when he discovered the brakes were not functioning properly. The driver forgot the emergency brakes and the bus, traveling slowly, continued across the road and into the ditch.