

Heavy Rains Damage Crops In The County

Corn And Peanuts Wash Away Late Tuesday Evening

Tobacco Transplanting Has Been Delayed By Rains For Several Days

Accurate estimates are not available, but thirty or more farmers questioned here yesterday and early today were certain that the heavy rain late Tuesday evening did considerable damage to crops in this county.

Measuring 2.04 inches, the rain literally washed away young corn and peanuts, but damage to tobacco is not believed to have been extensive.

Starting an investigation when he misted the greater part of one field of corn, one farmer found that it had washed right across the field into a ditch and continued right on to the swamp. Peanuts, newly planted, almost clogged the ditches along with soil washed from the fields.

It is agreed that much fertilizer washed away, creating a problem that can be solved only by guessing. If all the fertilizer is gone, farmers can duplicate the original applications, but they are not certain if all or half or just how much fertilizer is left.

Farmers expressed the hope yesterday that the tobacco crop had not been materially damaged. Reports stated that while a few fields were left under water, the plants were holding up well as a whole.

Yesterday farmers reported plant trouble but not necessarily a shortage. It was first thought that black shank had attacked the plants, but it was later found that worms had attacked the plants in the beds and damaged them, that the plants withered and died after being bruised in handling.

It is fairly certain that the plant supply is sufficient to care for needs in this county and that some plants can be spared, possibly in quantities next week.

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Has Good Record At Oxford School

William Lawrence Everett, Martin County youth, is making an enviable record at the Oxford Orphanage High School where he was admitted through the recommendation of Conoho Lodge No. 399 at Hamilton before it was consolidated with the Skewawke Lodge at Williamston.

During his four years in the high school he has maintained a high scholastic average and is being vocationally trained in printing.

During his high school career he has participated in the following: Class prophet, literary club as member and officer, glee club, declamation contest, American Legion Auxiliary essay contest, N. C. Citizens Association essay contest, art editor high school annual, football, Boy Scouts, victory corps, life saving and American Junior Red Cross.

Supt. A. D. Leon Gray says that those who made it possible for the young man to enter the institution should be proud of his accomplishments.

REGISTRATION

Saturday of this week is the last day books will be held open for the registration of voters who would participate in the special tax elections to be held in Bear Grass and Oak City School Districts. Not to be confused with the \$200 million road and \$25 million school bond issues, the registration is in progress in Bear Grass, Hamilton, Hassell and Oak City precincts. No complete report on the registration is available, but it is understood that comparatively few have qualified to participate in the special tax election which is to be held on the 28th of this month.

Those who have not done so may register Saturday of this week for the special tax election and also the special bond election at the same time.

Justice Johnson Hears Ten Cases In Past Few Days

Oklahoma Man Placed Under \$150 Bond For Alleged Drunken Driving

While Justice John L. Hassell was enjoying a brief vacation, Justice R. T. Johnson handled ten cases in his court during the past few days. Several others were sent to the county court for trial last Monday, and several more are listed for an airing in the justice's court on Saturday of this week.

L. A. Poole, Oklahoma man charged with drunken driving, was required to post bond in the sum of \$150 for his appearance in the county court for trial.

Charged with driving on the wrong side of the road and failing to dim his lights, James S. Crickmore, Rocky Mount man, was fined \$20 and taxed with \$7.35 costs.

Lillie Berry, charged with public drunkenness, was required to pay \$5.85 costs.

Charged with an assault and operating a gambling house, William Reed, Hamilton colored man, was bound over to the county court for trial under a \$100 bond. He was adjudged not guilty in the highest court.

Frank Brown was taxed with \$5.85 costs for an assault.

Booked for public drunkenness, George Mumford was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of \$5.85 costs.

Charged with the larceny of a truck, Octavius Roberson was bound over to the county court for trial under bond in the sum of \$500.

One of the first cases to come into the courts since disorderly conduct in public places outside incorporated towns was made unlawful by an act of the recent legislature was heard this week.

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Chosen To Attend Tennessee Camp

Pearl Gwendolyn Carr, Parmele Senior 4-H Club member, has been selected to attend the Regional 4-H Camp to be held at Tennessee State College in August. She is the second girl to be selected on merit for work accomplished on projects carried. Seven others make up the State load for the year.

Last year Otho Jones, Bethlehem 4-H Club girl received a similar honor. The polo in the State prevented the two Martin County delegates from attending the Regional 4-H Camp which was held at Southern University, Scotlandville, Louisiana. Otho Jones together with Henry Swimpson, Parmele 4-H Senior Club member, were chosen last year and may still attend this year.

J. Watts Martin Died In Norfolk Monday Evening

Native of This County Was Prominent in Financial And Civic Affairs

John Watts Martin, Williamston native and for many years a prominent business man and civic leader in Norfolk, died in a hospital in the Virginia city last Monday night at 10:30 o'clock following a heart attack. He had been in ill health for several years and entered the hospital Sunday for treatment.

Mr. Martin, a brother of the late Wheeler Martin, Sr., and Mrs. Fannie Carstapren, was born on Smithwick Street here on May 21, 1877, the son of the late Joseph J. Martin and Victoria Fagan Martin.

After attending school here and in Tarboro and Oak Ridge he went to Norfolk at the age of sixteen and was employed by the Norfolk Southern Railroad. He later entered the lumber business and was recognized for years as one of Norfolk's leading business men. He served as a director of the National Bank of Commerce.

Mr. Martin was married twice, first to Miss Evelyn Petit of Norfolk and some years after her death he was married in 1915 to Miss Lucille Matthews of Ohio who survives with a son, J. Watts Martin, Jr., an adopted son and a grandson, J. Watts Martin, III. Funeral services were conducted in Norfolk yesterday afternoon and interment was in a cemetery there.

A Norfolk newspaper, carrying an account of his death, said: For some time, he was a member of the Norfolk Light Artillery Blues. He was a member of Epworth Methodist Church.

In his declining years he derived an increasing pleasure from his membership in the Norfolk Rotary Club. He became a charter member in 1914 and 14 years later became the president of the club.

His good-natured barbs were frequently the spark that set off merriment in the meeting of the Rotarians. So highly was he esteemed by the members that when his ill health prevented regular attendance he was named as an honorary member. He was present at a meeting just a few weeks ago and received a hearty welcome from the membership.

A tribute was paid to his devotion to the club and the principles of Rotary at the meeting in the Monticello Hotel Tuesday.

Drivers Warned To Get Licenses

Motor vehicle drivers whose last names begin with the letter H or I or J or K and who have not yet got their operators' licenses are warned that only a few more weeks remain for them to take the tests.

Safety examiner Boyce said yesterday that there were an estimated 139,000 drivers in the State whose licenses have not been renewed in the H, I, J and K classification, that a definite census is in the making. The last day for the letter classification to get their licenses is June 30, that is, if they plan to continue driving motor vehicles.

Starting next Monday, the safety examiners will issue licenses to the approximately 35,500 chauffeurs and cab drivers, meaning that the rush at the examination centers will be even more marked. No tests are required for the renewal of chauffeurs' licenses, it was explained.

Beginning July 1 those persons whose last names begin with the letter L or M are scheduled to take the tests. They will have six months to renew their licenses.

Those persons becoming sixteen years of age are eligible to apply for licenses irrespective of their names and the dates designated for issuing licenses to certain letter combinations. The license examiner is in Williamston each Wednesday and Thursday and at Robersonville each Friday. The examiner has been fairly busy issuing licenses here during yesterday and this morning.

Congressman Bonner Will Address Meeting Tomorrow

Congressman Herbert Bonner will address the annual meeting of the Martin County Farm Bureau in the Williamston High School Friday afternoon at 5:00 o'clock when he is expected to review briefly the new farm program proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan. The meeting will climax a two-day farm and club program which got under way here this morning with the opening of the sixth annual fat stock show. The congressman's address will be broadcast over a Washington station and will be followed by a big barbecue at the high school.

Members of the arrangements committee said today that 3,350 pounds of meat is being barbecued for the event which is certain to attract well over 2,000 people. Chef Andrew Griffin, aided by a

INCREASE

According to reliable but unofficial reports, Martin County farmers have borrowed more money this year than they did last for financing their farming operations. The increased borrowings were reported despite tightening of credit controls. It is possible that more farmers are finding it necessary to borrow this year than was the case last spring. It was also indicated that the average size of the loans is hardly as large as it was a year ago.

Father And Son Injured In Car Accident Today

John James and Son Both Had Right Legs Broken At Jamesville

John James, 62-year-old colored man of the Free Union section of Jamesville Township, and his son were badly but believed not critically injured in an automobile accident near Jamesville on the Plymouth Highway this morning at 12:30 o'clock. Last reports stated both men were getting along as well as could be expected, that they would recover if no complications resulted.

Driving toward Plymouth, the Kaiser car apparently went out of control when it struck a railroad crossing, tore into a telephone pole and knocked it down along with wires. All communications between here and Plymouth were out for several hours. The car came to a stop on its side about thirty-five or forty feet from the highway.

The father suffered a broken right leg and severe cuts on the body, especially about the head. The son suffered fractures of his right leg and right arm and he, too, was badly cut and bruised on other parts of his body.

No estimate on the property damage could be had immediately. The victims were removed to a Washington hospital in Biggs and Horner ambulances.

Planning Extensive Azalea Garden on Farm In County

A new venture—azalea culture—is being advanced on a rather extensive scale in this county by Messrs. D. G. Matthews of Hamilton and H. E. Rogerson of Portsmouth. The first shipment of azaleas were transplanted this week on the Matthews farm near Hamilton and others will be added until there are approximately 50,000 of the plants of several varieties. Advancing the venture on a commercial scale, the promoters plan to enter the market next year. In addition to the azalea project, Messrs. Matthews and Rogerson plan to put out around five thousand camillias next fall. The project is being centered

Sixteen Marriage Licenses Issued In Martin County

Issuance maintains a downward trend for fourth year in a row. Sixteen marriage licenses were issued by the office of register of deeds in this county last month, the issuance maintaining a fairly steady decline in business at the bureau for the month of April. Four years ago thirty-three licenses were issued in April. In 1946, the issuance dropped to twenty. Last year, the count fell to seventeen, followed by the slight decline this year.

In the first four months of last year, 95 licenses were issued, 35 to white and 60 to colored couples. In the corresponding four months of this year 59 marriage licenses were issued, 31 to white and 28 to colored couples.

Mrs. Whitehurst Dies At the Home Of Daughter Here

Funeral Will Be Held On West Main Street Friday Afternoon

Mrs. Molly Godfrey Rogers Whitehurst, 86, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. James D. Bowen, on West Main Street here yesterday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock. She had been in declining health for some time and her condition had been critical following a stroke of paralysis suffered last Monday.

Mrs. Whitehurst was born in Williams Township on July 10, 1862. Orphaned when an infant, she made her home with the Laniers in Williams Township for a number of years. She was first married in 1894 to Will Rogers who died in 1900. In 1903 she was married to Charles Whitehurst and made her home in Bear Grass Township for a number of years, moving to Williamston following the death of her husband to make her home with her daughter.

Mrs. Whitehurst was a member of the Sweet Home Church in Bear Grass for about thirty years, and made many friends in her adopted communities.

Two children, Mrs. Bowen and Eli D. Rogers of Jamesville, survive. (Continued on page six)

Leg Amputated In Hospital Tuesday

Mr. John P. Hodges, well known Bear Grass citizen and retired highway commission employe, had his left leg amputated above the knee in a Washington hospital Tuesday. Last reports reaching here stated he was getting along as well as could be expected.

Mr. Hodges is the third county man to have lost a leg by amputation within the course of a few weeks.

Losing his second leg by amputation several weeks ago, Mr. Claudius Roberson is getting along well at his home in West End, and Mr. Neil James who lost a leg by amputation some over two weeks ago is doing all right at his home in Everetts.

Fourteen Cases In Court Last Monday

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

After relaxing a bit about a month ago, motorists on the highways in this county are continuing their work in building up a bad accident record. There haven't been as many accidents this year, but more people have been injured, equally as many killed and the property loss has been higher.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend; first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Accidents, Inj'd, Killed, Dam'ge. Rows for 1949 and 1948.

Hit-Run Victim Dies Of Injuries In Hospital Here

Allen McNair, Washington County Native, Fatally Hurt Sunday, May 1

Allen McNair, native of Washington County, died in the local hospital yesterday afternoon of injuries mysteriously received early in the morning of May 1. His back injured, both legs broken and hurt internally, he was entered in the hospital shortly after 3:00 o'clock on the morning of Sunday, May 1. While it is not known, it is believed that he was run down on the highway near Spring Green between Williams-ton and Hamilton and left to die by a hit-run driver.

Said to have been intoxicated, McNair was carried from Williamston by a taxi driver to the home of his wife's relatives near Spring Green about 12:30 o'clock that morning. His wife, the former Gladys Hollis, said he was at home a few minutes and left walking. The Pate boys from Williams Township found the injured man, on the highway, picked him up and delivered him to the hospital where little hope was held for his recovery.

A son of Erel McNair of Washington County's Long Ridge section, he was born there 33 years ago on September 5, 1915. He was an automobile mechanic and followed his profession in Washington County and in Williamston, Everetts and Hamilton after spending from 1932 until 1938 in California.

His widow survives with five small children, Joyce Anne, Barbara Jean, Bobby, Freddie and Carolyn, two of whom are making their home with his sister, Mrs. Eleanor Aiken in Plymouth.

Funeral arrangements were not announced immediately.

Offer For Sale Unpaid Accounts

The upward trend reported last year in the number of delinquent county tax accounts is being maintained this year, but holds to a fairly low level considering the fact that there are approximately 7,000 accounts on the books. A year ago there were 258 delinquent tax accounts—87 white and 171 colored—representing an unpaid balance on real estate in the amount of \$3,393.23. This year there are 267 delinquent accounts—304—88 white and 216 colored—representing unpaid real property taxes in the sum of \$5,024.69.

The delinquent list, advertised for 1948 today for the first time, will be offered for sale the first Monday in next month. The accounts unpaid by the 88 white property owners represent taxes in the amount of \$2,395.18, while the 216 colored property owners, delinquent in their accounts, owe \$2,629.51.

There were no delinquent accounts among colored property owners in Bear Grass and Poplar Point, but the number was large in Williamston. Nearly one-half of the unpaid accounts among the colored property owners is centered in Williamston.

Many of the unpaid accounts, representing very small sums, will be cleared from the books before the hammer falls at the auction next month.

The town of Williamston will advertise its delinquent list next week, reports stating that the number of unpaid accounts is a bit larger than it was last year.

Fines Amount To \$785; Few Cases Are Carried Over

Court Convinces Hard Road Lies Ahead for Illicit Liquor Dealers

After being literally snowed under by seventy cases last week the Martin County Recorder's Court got back on a normal operating schedule last Monday when Judge Chas. H. Manning and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson handled fourteen cases in a session that lasted less than three hours. Fines imposed during the short session amounted to \$785.

The court, handling one or two liquor cases, convinced the dealers in illicit liquors that a hard, difficult road lay ahead for them. Proceedings: Adjudged guilty of violating the health laws, Gilrene Manning was sentenced to jail for thirty days, the court suspending the jail sentence upon the payment of the costs and on the further condition that the defendant comply with health regulations.

The case charging Alexander Horner with being drunk and disorderly was not pressed when it was learned that it had been docketed in error.

Pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Julian Harris Commander was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Charlie Lee was adjudged not guilty of violating the liquor laws. Pleading guilty of violating the liquor laws, George Thomas Bailey was fined \$50 and required to pay the costs.

Opheus Revels, charged with assaulting a female, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for thirty days. The road term was suspended upon the payment of the costs and on condition that the defendant remain sober and be a law-abiding citizen for one year.

Pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle after his driver's license had been revoked, Joseph Edward Williams was fined \$300 and taxed with the costs. (Continued on page six)

N. C. State Band In Concert Here

The Concert Band of North Carolina State College, 50 strong, rendered an excellent program of music in concert in the Williams-ton High School auditorium last night before a large audience.

Rendering a program of classical, semi-classical and popular music, including two outstanding band march numbers, the program was well received throughout and the encores which the crowd demanded were outstanding successes, the first featuring a series of short numbers based on the same tune, an old-time favorite known to young and old, and the second a fine rendition of "Blue Skies."

Director Christian Kutschinski also paused about mid-way of the program to explain some of the instruments and demonstrate their tones, the particular instruments demonstrated being those not now owned and used by the Green Wave Band of Williamston High.

The band was brought to Williamston by the Band Parents Club for the benefit of local band members and to promote interest in and appreciation of band concert music.

Members of the visiting band, the junior and senior Green Wave bands and officials were entertained at a bountiful picnic supper at 6 o'clock at the high school cafeteria and the College musicians were delighted with the treat and expressed sincere appreciation of the hospitality shown them by the Williamston people.

The band concert received much favorable comment and those attending expressed regret that inclement weather and conflicting engagements prevented many people from attending.

Circus Will Show Here Next Monday

Traveling in a convoy of seventy vehicles, Rogers Brothers' three-ring circus will give two performances here on the Williamston Lumber Company lot on Washington Street next Monday. The doors open for the afternoon performance at 2:00 o'clock and at 7:00 o'clock for the evening show. Starting time is 3 and 8 o'clock.

Playing in New Bern Saturday, the three-ring circus is tentatively scheduled to reach here Sunday, but weather conditions and unforeseen factors could delay the arrival until late that day or early Monday.

One of the largest motor shows touring the country, the circus offers thirty acts, and features wild animal specialties, aerialists and clowns.

The show wintered in Florida and is traveling north.

Williamston's Lions Club is sponsoring the show and advance tickets are already on sale.