

## County Board In Regular Meeting Monday Morning

### Plan Special Session Later In Month To Study Budget Figures

Meeting in regular session Monday morning, the Martin County Commissioners discussed informally several topics for several hours, but limited action to routine matters, including road problems and a few other minor details. Budget figures are not quite ready, and the board is expected to meet in a special session later in the month to study the proposed financial plans for the new fiscal year of 1949-1950. Departmental reports, submitted in minute detail, were reviewed.

A contract for the annual audit was let to F. E. Butler, CPA, for \$550.

Iona James applied to the board for a license to sell beer at her Hitching Post cafe on South Sycamore Street.

Tax Collector M. L. Peel reported that all but \$15,391.05 of the \$283,426.26 levy for 1948 had been collected, that there was a balance due of \$6,115.03 on the \$234,906.57 levy for 1947, and that the unpaid balance for the 1946 levy of \$205,125.47 was \$2,334.30.

No discussion was held on the new road program, but the commissioners received several petitions for roads and maintenance.

The people living between Highway 64 and the Prison Camp Road petitioned the board for an outlet.

Residents just outside Williamston's northern limits petitioned the board, asking that it recommend to the highway commission the maintenance of Plum, Pine, Oak, Mulberry and Cherry Streets, a distance of 3,835 feet. The petition, carrying the names of 26 persons, explained that the streets served 55 homes.

Another petition asked the Highway commission to take over three-quarters of a mile of road in Jamesville Township, leading from the Lydia Sexton place to the W. B. Gaylord farm on the old Jamesville - Washington Railroad line. A second petition filed by Jamesville citizens asks the commission to take over and maintain seven-tenths of a mile of road leading off the old J. and W. Railroad line to the J. D. Price place. And a third petition from Jamesville urges the commission to take over and maintain one-half mile leading off Temporary 171 about five miles from Jamesville to the Arthur Modlin place.

All five of the commissioners, C. C. Marlin, W. M. Harrison, J. H. Edwards, C. A. Roberson and H. S. Johnson, were present and worked through the lunch hour to recess about 1:30 o'clock.

## County Income Boosted By Court Fines In Past Month

The Martin County Recorder's Court last month broke all income records when it turned over to the treasurer \$4,284.30, Clerk L. B. Wynne reported to the county commissioners in their regular current meeting. Fines were assessed in the round figures of \$3,000, the costs of \$1,284.30 levied by court schedule boosting the total to the record figure. The previous high income figure—\$3,744.45—was reported last January. The January fines, however, were about \$1,100 less than the figure reported for May. The income last month was more than \$500 greater than the previous high record, the court clerk pointed out.

Alleged liquor law violators brought to justice by the ABC board enforcement officers and police in the several towns, contributed heavily to the treasury.

## Logwoods Worker Drowns In River Near Jamesville

Three Others Swim to Safety When Small Boat Capsized Thursday Noon

Levi Riddick, 50-year-old colored man of Plymouth, was drowned in the Roanoke River at Jamesville shortly after 12:00 o'clock noon last Thursday. Three other men, William Bonds, colored, and Chas. Harris and A. L. Bradwell, both white, riding with Riddick in a small boat, swam to safety when the boat capsized about twelve or fifteen feet from the shore. Riddick surfaced only once and called for help. He was not seen after that time.

Leaving the logwoods where they had been working for the Atlas Plywood Corporation a few miles above Jamesville, the four men, riding in a plank boat powered by an outboard motor, were nearing the shore at Jamesville when the front of the boat dipped water. Riddick, stationed in the front part, ran toward the back and the boat filled with water and went down, Riddick going with it. The other three jumped and made their way to shore. Reports stated the water was unusually rough in the river at the time, that when the power was shut off, the front of the boat was lowered and a wave struck about that time.

The drowning was the first reported in the county and the second in the Roanoke this year as against three a year ago. A body, not immediately identified, was removed from the river not far from Roanoke Rapids earlier in the week.

Quite a few, using grappling hooks, searched for the body most of Thursday afternoon but their efforts were hampered by logs and snags at the bottom of the river. A direct search was abandoned, but fishermen maintained a fairly constant watch and the body was picked up about three miles below Jamesville by Douglas Currier who delivered it to the landing in Jamesville. Coroner S. R. Biggs investigated the drowning, found no sign of foul play and ruled that a formal inquest was not necessary. The body, already in an advance state of decomposition, was turned over to a Plymouth undertaker.

## Two Minor Road Wrecks Reported

No one was injured and little property damage resulted in two minor highway accidents on Martin County highways over the week-end, according to reports released by the highway patrol office this week.

A tractor-trailer truck owned by the Rogers Construction Company of Williamston was traveling U. S. 64 from Plymouth toward Dardens when a piece of metal, sticking out one side, struck a fender on the tractor-trailer truck owned by the Nash Brick Company. The piece of metal punctured a tire on the brick company's truck and flew into a Gaines and Kirkman tractor-trailer lumber truck tire and punctured it. The brick and lumber company trucks were meeting the other vehicle.

Saturday afternoon, Levi M. Donaldson lost control of his 1937 4-door Plymouth on Highway 64 between Williamston and Jamesville and the machine turned over on its side, injuring neither the driver of his companion, Martha Carson, and causing little damage. The car was righted and when refilled with oil it was driven away from the scene of the accident.

Patrolman E. P. Simmons made the investigations.

## Robber Held Here Under \$1,000 Bond

Slade Henry Butler, young colored man charged with the hold-up robbery of Henry Harris, filling station owner-operator near here on April 26, was ordered held in the county jail in default of \$1,000 bond required by Justice R. T. Johnson at a preliminary hearing held last Friday evening.

Arrested by Baltimore police week before last, Butler was returned here the next day by Deputy Buck Holloman and Patrolman M. F. Powers.

When formally charged with the crime, Butler pleaded not guilty, but admitted he went to the Harris station with Willie Williams, colored man, who was given a preliminary hearing some time ago. Williams was ordered held in default of a \$700 bond, and both are being booked for trial in the superior court week after next.

When confronted by Williams, Butler admitted striking Harris, but denied taking any money from the pockets of the victim. Harris identified Butler as the man who struck him and took money from his (Harris') pockets.

## Work Started On The River Road

Highway workers started yesterday on a project that will link the hardsurface on what is known as the River Road or the road between Hamilton and Palmyra. All of the road except 5.6 miles has been surfaced.

Tentative plans call for the completion of the project by early fall.

According to unofficial reports the route is shorter by a few miles from Hamilton to Scotland Neck than the one from Hamilton to Scotland Neck via Oak City.

Preliminary work has been completed on the surfacing of the Williamston-Bear Grass Road, and work is progressing on Route 171 from a point several miles out of Jamesville to the Farm Life section.

## Round-Up

All was fairly quiet on the crime front in the county during the week-end, according to a report coming from the sheriff's office.

Only two persons were arrested and jailed during the period, one for issuing a worthless check and the other for public drunkenness. One was a 50-year-old white man and the other was a young colored man.

## Road Bonds Get Two-To-One Vote Margin In The County

### School Plan Gets More Than Three-To-One Majority

Following the lead of Governor Kerr Scott and other recognized authorities and with the battle cry of "Go Forward" uppermost in their minds, approximately 400,000 North Carolinians went to the polls last Saturday and put the \$200 million road programs and \$25 million school building project over the top. Unofficial and incomplete returns give the road bond program a marginal victory of about 50,000 votes, while the school measure held an advantage of approximately 146,300 votes.

The latest unofficial returns show the road program received 228,106 votes as compared with 175,605 cast by the opposition. The school vote, based on fairly complete but unofficial returns, was 270,108 votes for and 123,800 against.

Martin County was one of the seventy-five counties giving both the road and school bond programs a favorable vote. The size of the vote was very small, hardly equalling one-half of a normal turnout for an election or referendum. Only one opposition box was reported and that was in Hamilton where the vote for the road program was 47 and against 51. The precinct gave the school plan a one vote margin—49 to 48. While the other twelve precincts in the county were giving both programs a favorable vote, Griffiths led the parade with a margin of 13 to 1, followed closely by Poplar Point where the margin was 12 to 1. Bear Grass was next in line with good support, polling 166 votes for and 32 against to give the road program a margin of 5 to 1. The vote ratio in Jamesville, Hassell and Goose Nest was about 4 to 1 for roads.

The school vote was a bit mixed, several of the precincts giving the road plan a greater margin of victory. Several others lessened their opposition and added to the favorable vote given the school program.

Only 2,016 votes were cast in the county, the rains possibly holding a few away from the polls. However, there was no great interest in the proposals, neither side having stirred up much animosity in the county.

In the State, the counties with large towns knifed the program with the vote count running almost as much as eight to one in some instances against both the road and school programs.

Over in Chowan where they have been demanding a new bridge across the Chowan River, the voters opposed the measure. Other counties in this section opposing the road bonds were Currituck where they can invest \$350,000 in a gambling track, Perquimans and Pitt. Lenoir County was divided on the issue, the unofficial vote there being 1,326 for and 1,326 against.

On the basis of unofficial and incomplete returns, only six counties—Cabarrus, Forsyth, Lenoir, Mecklenburg, Scotland and Warren—opposed the school bond program.

The road bond program was given a pronounced beating in the early returns coming mostly from the thickly populated counties, but the rural sections came back strong to tear down the opposition lead and forge ahead with a majority close to 50,000 votes.

## Funeral At Holly Springs Tomorrow For Sgt. Andrews

Funeral services will be held in the Holly Springs Methodist Church Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for S/Sgt. Samuel Leo Andrews who was killed in action in Italy on April 16, 1945, just a short time before the end of the war in Europe. His pastor, Rev. E. R. Shuller, assisted by Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister, will conduct the service, and a detail from the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion will be in charge of the military rites at the graveside in the family cemetery near the home in Williams Township.

The son of Samuel L. and Tillie Roberson Andrews, he was born in Williams Township near Williamston on October 25, 1919, and spent his early life on the farm. After finishing the Williamston High School, he continued his work on the farm and was later employed for eighteen months in the Norfolk Navy Yard, entering the service there on September 4, 1943. He trained at Ft. Blanding, Fla., and went overseas with the 301st Infantry Regiment, 91st Division under General Mark Clark, commander of the Fifth Army in Italy. The young man, in a matter of months worked his way up to staff sergeant, and participated in much of the fighting from March, 1944, all the way up through Italy. He was in the Po Valley drive north of Florence when he made the supreme sacrifice.

He was married to Miss Irma Ruth Simmons of Bethel and she survives with a son, Samuel Leo Andrews, Jr. Also surviving are his parents; five brothers, Elton, Victor and Eugene Andrews of Williamston, Hewitt Andrews of Robersonville, and Donald Andrews of Hendersonville; three sisters, Mrs. Harvey Williams of Robersonville, Mrs. Albert Rawls of Hampton, Va., and Mrs. Chas. Bennett of Lipsie, Ohio.

The young man, popular in his home and adopted communities was a member of the Holly Springs Methodist Church.

The body is on its way from the Brooklyn Depot today and will be carried to the home in Williams Township late this afternoon where it will remain until shortly before the service in the church tomorrow.

## Member of Local Faculty Resigned

Mrs. Anne J. Corey, eighth grade teacher in the local schools for the past two terms, recently submitted her resignation to accept a position as secretary of the Corey Plumbing and Heating Company. It was announced by the committee yesterday.

G. C. Wood of Swansboro, has been elected to fill the eighth grade position, it was also announced. Mr. Wood, a veteran of World War II and who served in the Navy, was graduated from East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, with high honors this spring. A brother to Mr. T. P. Wood of Williamston, the new faculty member plans to locate here with his wife and three-year-old son, Terry, in the early fall.

Miss Margaret McDaniel, experienced teacher of Woodland, has been named to the home economics department, succeeding Miss Ida Roberts, resigned. Miss McDaniel taught last term in the Pinetops school and comes here highly recommended.

All but two of the seven positions made vacant by resignations have been filled, Committee Secretary W. I. Skinner said yesterday.

## Special Awards For Band Pupils

Special awards, including certificates, letters and trophies, were presented Professor Jack Butler's band pupils at the close of school for their work during the past term, as follows:

Certificates and letters: Bobby Clayton, Larry Bullock, Travis Martin, Louise Corey, Raymond Roberson, Jack Edwards, Bobby Goff, Rondell Beach, Elizabeth Whitley, Gloyd Stewart and Jimmy Page.

Special performance certificate: Warren Goff and Johnny Woolard. Senior awards: Julian Mason, Sallie Hardison, Marilyn Fussell, Julia Laughinhouse, Joan Peck and Ray Thomas.

Outstanding band member award trophy: Sallie Beth Hardison.

Twirling award: Mary Lee Lee (superior rating in district contest at Greenville; awarded medal at Elizabeth City annual band festival).

## Native Quitting Insurance Post

William P. Hodges, Williamston native and son of Mr. W. J. Hodges and the late Mrs. Hodges, last week resigned as Insurance Commissioner of North Carolina. He has served several terms as head of the department and more recently was a member of the Council of State.

No official announcement has been made, but according to reports heard here the young man is quitting the post to go with the Continental Insurance Company with headquarters in Washington, D. C.

## Poppy Sales Total \$294.56 In County

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary in four county centers reported this week that the poppy sale on May 28 amounted to \$294.56.

Reporting for the Oak City area, Mrs. Hassell Worsley said that the sale there amounted to \$14.83. Mrs. J. A. Hardison reported a \$13 sale in Farm Life, and Mrs. J. A. Ellis said the sale in the Jamesville section amounted to \$17.08. The sale in Williamston amounted to \$250.65, the total income ranging above the average for the past few years.

## County Education Board Held No Meeting Monday

A meeting of the Martin County Board of Education, tentatively scheduled for Monday of this week, was postponed on account of the absence of Chairman J. D. Woolard who was out of town.

A date for the meeting has not been fixed, but it is likely that the members will assemble next Monday.

## Man Held Up And Robbed Near Log Camp On Roanoke

### Masked Men Stalk Their Prey Beside River Banks Late Last Thursday

Switching from the highway to the Roanoke, river robbers held up A. C. Currie, logging camp watchman, at the point of a two pistols and relieved him of all his earthly cash of \$52—five \$10 and two \$1 bills near Poplar Point landing in this county about 6:30 o'clock last Thursday evening.

Riding in a plank boat with an outboard motor attached to it, three grown men apparently floated or paddled the small boat down the river, banked it and stole within a few feet of their victim before their presence was discovered. One of the three men, all of whom wore high-cuffed work gloves and masks that completely covered their faces and heads, remained with the boat. The other two, each armed with a pistol, told Currie, "Your life or your money." The victim, a goodly distance from a residence, pulled out and handed over the \$52 in cash. The hold-up men were a bit particular and rejected the man's watch, declaring it was not good enough for them. After having Currie turn his pockets wrongside out, the men backed off, got into their small boat, about fifty feet away, cranked the motor and moved down the river, holding their pistols on the victim until they were almost out of sight.

The camps had been abandoned and the keeper who had been there several years dug up the money from its hiding place just a short time before and was making ready to leave for another site, Deputy Buck Holloman and Deputy Roy Peel said following an investigation.

The officers, notified about 8:30 of the hold-up, went to the scene that night and the following day made a search by boat up and down the river. They were unable to find any trace of the robbers.

Currie said the men were dressed in overalls and jumpers and were quite large, according to Currie's description, but the victim was unable to say whether they were white or colored men. Officers admitted they had very little to work on in the case.

## How They Voted In Martin County

Precinct	ROADS		SCHOOLS		Total Vote
	For	Against	For	Against	
Jamesville	138	34	131	35	179
Williams	39	22	39	20	63
Griffins	158	12	146	15	170
Bear Grass	166	32	165	27	204
Williamston No. 1	143	32	192	31	228
Williamston No. 2	194	125	254	68	331
Cross Roads	66	48	70	41	114
Robersonville	158	141	191	103	301
Gold Point	36	23	38	21	59
Poplar Point	46	4	31	5	50
Hassell	42	12	42	10	55
Hamilton	47	51	49	48	100
Goose Nest	131	30	117	36	162
Totals	1364	616	1465	460	2016

## PEANUTS

Operations were resumed at both the Williamston and Dixie Peanut Company plants here yesterday when the mills started shelling 50,000 bags of peanuts for the government. Thirty thousand bags of the goobers are being moved out of storage here and 20,000 are being taken out of storage at Robersonville.

It was reported that the shelled peanuts will be moved to wharves at Norfolk for shipment to Europe where they will be crushed for oil. The peanuts are to be shelled and delivered to Norfolk in about two weeks, and it is likely that the plants will operate two shifts.

## POOR STAND

While reporting their best tobacco crop prospects, Martin County farmers declare they have encountered much difficulty in getting a stand of peanuts. Goodly numbers of farmers have replanted the crop the second time and some have reported third plantings. Wet and cold weather caused the seed to rot in the ground, it was explained.

It is estimated that the extra plantings alone cost the farmers in this county approximately \$75,000 for seed without considering other costs.