# Holiday Week-End

#### Lost Lives In Nation **During Period**

other places.

this county. Only one minor high- mitted to contract within the near the road from Jamesville to Ha. diway accident was reported. There future, Engineer Parkin said. of fireworks injuries. Several persons found their way into the various jails, and four speeders were temporarily detained, but officers-state, county and localsaid the period was observed about as quietly as any they could

Hundreds of Martin County people sought elief from the heat at the beaches and in the mountains, but possibly more remained at home than in the past, discussing the weather and sweating out the

In those areas where excessive rainfall had damaged their crops farmers were busy trying to save the tobacco. Farmers in other parts of the county reportedly "took it easy."

North Carolina reported at least 27 untimely deaths, highway accidents claiming nearly half or thirteen of the number who lost their lives. The highway death toll exceeded by one a forecast of highway fatalities. A truck-bus wreck near Smithfield claimed three lives and injured more than a dozen other persons. The accident was one of the worst reported in

In the nation approximately 873 persons met untimely deaths. \$32 in highway accidents, 293 by drowning, ninety of heat prostration, 19 in air tragedies, and 139 in miscellaneous tragedies.

late Monday afternoon when a date. windstorm struck the New York-New Jersey area and materially boosted the drowning count. The 1949 toll was the highest

July. The previous record of acci-Day holiday was 628 in the threeday period in 1941. This year's over a three-day period in 1948.

Sweltering weather across the ed for vacation lands and resorts. The traffic toll, as generally expected, was the leader, with 393 fatalities on the highways. The National Safety Council had estimated 290 persons would lose their lives in traffic mishaps over

### Hamilton P.-T. A. Met On Tuesday

The Hamilton P. T. A. held its second meeting of the summer Tuesday evening at the school building. Mrs. Clinton James, vice president, presided. The main topics of discussion were School room improvement, lunch room improvement and continued improvement of the school

#### OPENING DATES

The local tobacco market will open this year on Thursday, August 18, it was announced last week-end by the Board of Governors of the Bright Belt Warehouse Association in executive session at Raleigh.

Georgia markets open on July 26, followed by the Border markets on August 2. Only one change in selling regulations was made. This year the selling time will be five and one-half hours instead of five with a 400-pile-

per-hour sale limit and maxi-

mum baskets of 300 pounds.

## Number Of Tragic Plan Completion Of Road Critcher Lumber | County Board In Deaths Mounts In Project In This County

tion received here this week, the that point where it intersects what More Than Eight Hundred North Carolina State Highway and 15 known as the Holly Springs \$40,000 Mill Will Employ Instruct Officers To Warn Public Works Commission plans to Road, a distance of about three complete the surfacing of Route miles. The remainder of the pro-171 from a point several miles out ject will be placed under contract While Martin County people of Jamesville to the Beaufort as a State-Federal aid undertakwere "sweating out" the long County line. The project was for- ing. holiday week-end without serious mally approved by the county According to the map the road incident, more than eight hundred commissioners at their meeting will be maintained in its present branch line of the A. C. L. Rail-mained in session until 1:30 persons in the nation met tragic held on Tuesday. Engineer J. C. locations with one exception. It is road Company, a report stating o'clock before clearing their caldeaths on the highways, at the Parkin of Ahoskie submitted the proposed to "shoot" the road that normal operations would fol- endar. There was very little busibeaches, in the air and various map for the proposed project and straight across the Hardison Mill low in a day or two or just as soon ness other than that of a routine if there are no objections on the Pond, eliminating a dangerous The July Fourth period, for the part of the public the project will curve. most part, was quietly observed in be included in the list to be sub-

were no serious fights and the The State is planning to com- following the big rain on Wednesyouthful population went by free plete the surfacing of the road day of last week.

According to official informa- from the point near Jamesville to

Washed out in several places, son Mill was blacked for two days

**Peanut Company** 

**Handles Contract** 

Entering into a contract with

the government, the Williamston

Peanut Company is now working

sixteen hours a day to shell and

deliver to Virginia shipping points

approximately 42,000 bags of far-

Receiving the contract last

about an hour later, and the big

shelling task was under way the

pletion of the work by July 20.

Marvin H. Ayers

a member of Cross Roads Chris-

brother, Lloyd Ayers of near Bear

Grass; and a sister, Mrs. Holly

Road Accident

William Hardy Highsmith, sev-

en-year-old colored boy, was pain-

fully but believed not seriously

tween Parmele and Bethel Mon-

es all over his body, the victim

was treated in the Ward Clinie in

Robersonville and later removed

Investigating the accident, Pa-

Benjamin Pressley Bullock of

Bethel was driving from Parmele

toward his home and that the boy

dashed into the highway and into

The Highsmith boy-was walking

trolman B. W. Parker said that

to his home near Parmele.

Hooten of Portsmouth, Va.

mers' stock peanuts.

by the contract.

#### RAINFALL

The 9.08 inches of rain falling here in June established no record, but it was within .63 of one inch of the 9.71 reported in 1938. There's no doubt but what the month will go down in the record as a wet month, the rainfall being 4.66 inches above the 4.42inch average for the past nineteen years.

And even then this immediate section did not bear the brunt of J. Pluvius' attack, reports from Jamesville stating that nearly as much rain fell there in one afternoon as was recorded by Hugh Spruill at the weather station here on Roanoke River for the entire month

Rain fell on 17 of the 30 days in June. During the first five days of this month 2.04 of rain was recorded here.

### **Justice Johnson** Has Five Cases

Justice R. T. Johnson handled five cases in his court here during the past few days, working on Saturday morning after being ill ficial estimate on the damag was leading the tragedy list until July 4 to keep his calendar up to for 10 days. Funeral services were could be had, but the loss will run

Seven youthful colored boys afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by the were in the court for assaulting Rev. Preston Clayton, pastor of the Cross Roads Christian Church. Archie Lee James and inflicting Burial will be in the Rehoboth eve. recorded for any Fourth of bodily injury. Louis Moore was Holiness Church cemetery near sentenced to the roads for thirty Bear Grass. Mr. Ayers was born dental deaths on the Independence days, the court suspending the and lived all his life in Martin term upon the payment of \$5 and County and was a farmer. He was mark compared with 571 reported costs . James Bell, taking temp- tian Church. He was married to orary leave from a sentence im- Mrs. Lena Horton in 1921, who posed a short time ago in the survives with one stepson, Reubin nation brought an outpouring of county court, was ordered to ap- Thomas Gray of Norfolk, Va., millions onto the highways head- pear before the county court. three stepdaughters, Mrs. Lillie Frank Bell, 15, and James Bridges, Mae Williams of Newport News, 17, were found not guilty. Howard Va., Mrs. J. R. Messer and Mrs. Purvis, Frank Brown and Her- Carson Taylor of Rocky Mount; a man Davis, all minor, were sent before the juvenile judge.

Charged with disorderly conduct, Nathan Reid was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the road sentence upon the payment of the

Joe Walter Williams was fined \$5 and taxed with the costs in the case in which he was charged n disorderly conduct:

In the case charging Nicodemus burt in a highway accident be Long with skipping a board bill, judgment was suspended upon day evening at 5:45 o'clock. With the payment of the board bill and his head badly battered and bruis-

The case charging Louis Earl Clay with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license was sent to the county court.

### **Peeping Tom Gets** Away In County

Prowling around the home and peeping through the windows of short distance before he fell off. received, others accumulated so last week and mailed them in the the Powell home in Gold Point Bullock was said to have been rapidly that the reporter's desk following day. Clifton Gurganus the Chocowinity area had some last Monday evening about 8:30 driving about 35 miles an hour had the appearance of a funeral followed with a blossom. o'clock, a person whose identity when his car struck the boy. has not yet been definitely established, barely escaped.

Tom Powell, visiting in the panion and both started to cross liamston RFD 2, came in first with well. It has been damaged some home at the time, chased the the highway. The companion, a 1949 blossom. A relative, W. H. by heavy rains in some sections. prowler and got hold of him twice, George Lee Hines, looked down Rogers, Jr., picked a couple of but in other areas and where the but the man pulled away.

Bloodhounds were carried there car and held to the side of the over to show them to his uncle the ly it is looking all right. from the county prison camp by road. Capt. A. H. Sessoms and Patrol man M. F. Powers. A track was unavoidable on Bullock's part and The talk was away from blossoms, submitted a twin squash. The vefollowed for some distance but it no charges were lodged against but the elder man started figuring. getables, firmly attached one to well last night, but was nauseated nesday and wiped out his tobacco was lost at a road intersection. the car driver.

# New Plant Today

Twenty Persons At **Present Time** 

The Critcher Lumber Company

day making adjustments to the en- to dog vaccinations. gines, carriage and pulleys. Some All members of the board were up the engine, but no serious Johnson of Hamilton who is imof the owners said.

builders, it was explained.

employing approximately twenty pay one-half the amount. persons in addition to logging op- Discussing the vaccination of One or two reports declared the erations. The company is also in dogs in the county, the board in damage would approximate an the market for additional timber structed officers to notify those amount nearer half million dol-

Thursday, the company started moving peanuts out of storage

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#### following morning. There was no Service Restored July 4 holiday observance around the storage warehouse and the The contract calls for the com-

Employment has been increased and local haulers and truckers have been materially benefitted near Dardens the middle of last fins, 49; Bear Grass, 65; Williams- a few cases. week, was restored early last Fri- ton, 107; Cross Roads, 45; Roberday afternon. Train schedules sonville, 88; Poplar Point, 32; this week aggravated the damage were maintained on Thursday and Hamilton, 92; and Goose Nest, 150. along with more rain. were resumed late Friday after The board also invoked a 25- In the affected areas, farmers Died On Saturday

conducted at the home Sunday into several thousands of dollars.

#### THE RECORD SPEAKS

Motorists, using Martin County highways, are really getting good. For the second time in a row, they traveled the highway without a reportable accident, and went through most of the long July 4 week-end without marring the record. Last year six persons were injured in holiday accidents on the highways in this county.

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. 26th Week

Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge 1948 \_ 2 6 0 Comparisons To Date

the front left fender. The boy was ed some strategic maneuvering. Rev. J. W. Rodgers picked sev

scooped up and rode the hood a After the first few blossoms were eral blossoms on Wednesday of

along the highway with a com- Rogers, Sr., colored farmer of Wil- time in recent years, is doing very

the highway, saw the approaching blossoms on June 29 and went crop is cultivated more etxensive-

wreath.

**Owners To Have Dogs** Vaccinated

Equipped with virtually all new partmental reports, the board dis- have exacted a heavy crop dammachinery and the latest mechan-cussed the veterans' officer service age in this county, according to isms, the plant will normally with Representative Dunn of Wil- preliminary surveys. Accurate esmanufacture around 20,000 feet of son and employed Attorney Edgar timates are not to be had, but the lumber a day. The owners, while Gurganus as Martin County Vet- preliminary reports place the daholding several valuable outside grans Service Officer. He succontracts, will also cater to local ceeds Mrs. Joanna Martin, resign- lion dollars for tobacco alone, the At the present time, the mill is ed at \$1,500 a year, the State to that it is impossible to estimate

Experienced in the timber and dogs vaccinated, warning them age as low as \$175,000.

cents to go to the vaccinator.

having been made in error.

and that \$2,320.35 was uncollected on peanuts cannot be determined. on the \$205,139.42 levy for 1946.

#### Church Extends Call To Education Director

The Memorial Baptist Church this week unanimously extended a call to Miss Emilyn Wagner of committee, has the call under consideration and is expected to reply within the next day or two.

She is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne and holds the master of religious edacation degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort

The cotton crop, much larger in

Race Of Cotton Blossoms

Is Close In This County

The race of the cotton blossoms, blossom and with his newer car

trailing slightly those in other literally outran the younger farm-

counties, was unusually close in ed to submit the first blossom. Ten

following morning. The elder To cap the cotton blossom race.

He moved into his field, picked a the other, had separate stems.

# Company Opens | Regular Meeting

Meeting Tuesday morning after placed in operation today its \$40,- observing the 4th as a holiday, the 000 plant just off the Plymouth Martin County Commissioners reas a few "kinks" could be iron out. nature, but considerable time was Machinists worked late yester- devoted to a discussion pertaining

trouble was experienced in tuning present except Commissioner H. S. handicaps were encountered, one proving in a Richmond hospital.

ed. His salary was tentatively fix- information sources admitting

Tax relief orders were issued for the 1948 tax year to Richard Mob- lower leaves and started the race ley, Williamston, in the sum of \$3, higher up the stalk in an effort to and to the Bryant Gaynor estate take care of the tobacco that is in the sum of \$4.20, both listings certain to ripen rapidly. It is like-

ed that all but \$15,189.60 of the ten days or two weeks instead of 1948 tax levy of \$268,681.36 had during a normal harvest period been collected, that \$6,007.63 was running from five to six weeks. due on the 1947 levy of \$228,898.94. The effect record rains have had

## Estimate Damage To State Patrolmen Tuesday Morning Crops In County At In County Tuesday More Than \$250,000 Pitt County Camp Escapees Steal and Damage

### Tobacco Crop Is **About Wiped Out** In Some Sections

Efforts Made To Save Some Of Damaged Crop Not Very Successful

The tremendous rain the middle of last week and sizable showers After reviewing the various de- falling on several succeeding days

owners who have not had their lars, while others placed the dam-

saw mill business, the owners of that prosecution in the courts can It is fairly well agreed that the the new mill, Messrs. Titus and be expected if the immunization damage to the crop in Jamesville Roger Critcher, Sr., brothers, and law is not recognized. If the dogs Township and in parts of Williams that have not been vaccinated are and Griffins Townships will, on an not vaccinated within a certain average, approximate \$250 per time, the owners are to be indicted acre. In some sections, particuprovided the dogs are not killed. lagrly in the Angetown, Free Un-No official estimate on the num- ion, Poplar Chapel, Cedar Branch After Short Delay ber of dogs not vaccinated was made, but it is believed there are Road in Jamesville and Griffins over 812 to be vaccinated. The es- Townships, the loss will run pos-Rail service, interrupted for two timate follows, by townships: sibly 75 percent or more and right days when a fill washed away Jamesville, 131; Williams, 53; Grif- on up to more than 90 percent in

service was cancelled on Thurs- cent penalty for late vaccinations, were going ahead with the har-In some cases the penalty has run vest on a big scale the early part Marvin Hugh Ayers, 47, died at rock were dumped into the three cents is to be credited to the dog work were not very encouraging. Kentucky, hospital at 1:45 o'clock Page ran down the road after his Approximately sixty carloads of as high as \$1. In those cases, 50 of this week, but reports on the his home near Bear Grass early washouts, it was learned. No of- owner's tax account, 25 cents go- One farmer said that the water- this morning, relatives were advisbookkeeping, and the other 25 falling off the sticks after they ently in good health when he last Accompanied by Farmer Wynne were placed in the curing barns.

Other farmers abandoned the ly that the tobacco in the damaged Tax Collector M. L. Peel report- areas will have been harvested in

> but farmers are hoping they'll survive. But there'll be a race between the farmer and the grass.

Apparently the corn crop withstood the excessive rains and is looking "pretty good," as a whole. Drainage and types of soil along with the length of the rows had Taylorsville to head its religious much to do with the extent of the education department. Miss Wag- damage to tobacco. Where there ner, who was interviewed by the was good drainage and the rows were short, the crop stood up bet-

One farmer, examining a bent stalk of tobacco, said the roots had about rotted off, that new ones were forming Out side the affected areas,

ing good, farmers explaining that with favorable conditions existing during the course of the next few eeks they'll barvest their best to

The rains are believed to have of the county. Some tobacco is ripening rapidly while the crop, as a whole, is turning green and growing. In those cases the harvest

the county this year and develop- with two blossoms. Reports from other counties tell of damaged crops. Bertie and Chowan Counties report fairly heavy damage, and it was said that Farmer Plagued damaged crops.

### By a speed maneuver, W. H. the county this year than at any Continues Quite III

In Washington Hospital Suffering a relapse last week Township last week. Witnesses said the accident was Rogers said he had blossoms, too. Reddick Griffin, RFD 1 farmer, almost seven weeks.

## PRESIDENT



E. Ross Froneberger, popular local young man and deputy collector for the State Department of Revenue, was recently elected to the presidency of the Williamston Lions Club for the new year. He has been active in civic undertakings here for several

### E. H. Robertson Died In Kentucky Late Last Night

Funeral Plans For Native it so they could drive into a path Of Williamston Are Incomplete

liamston, died in an Owensboro, cooled by the breeze from his passvisited relatives and friends here and Fletcher Thomas, Page fola month ago, was taken ill and lowed the trio in the Wynne car underwent an operation the early to Bear Grass, stopping there to part of last week. His condition sound an alarm over the pairol had been critical since that time. radio station. Several patrolmen

in Owensboro.

the Lewisport Lodge, and was active in various civic circles there.

Surviving are his widow, the gas supply. About that time, Paformer Mrs. Lela Hopwood of trolman Powers closed in on Owensboro; four brothers, James them. H. Robertson of Washington, Charlie A. Robertson of Green affected the crop throughout most folk, and Fitzhugh L. Robertson of Edenton; four sisters, Mrs. J. O. Bowen of Miami Beach, Mrs. J. C. Anderson of Williamston, Mrs. W. H. Booker of Plymouth and Mrs.

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## By Adverse Luck

Misfortune befell Mr. and Mrs. James E. Taylor over in Williams

after showing much improvement, The first and most severe blow Sheriff C. B. Roebuck continues came on Monday when their quite ill in a Washington hospital eight-month-old son, Kennie, died where he has been a patient for in a Washington hospital. The farmer then lost a mule and a pet He was said to have rested very dog. Torrential rains fell Wed-

# Capture Convicts

ESTABLISHED 1899

Three Cars

Three young white convicts. working a ruse to escape from the State Highway prison camp in Pitt County late Tuesday afternoon, were captured by members of the highway patrol between Williamston and Bear Grass about an hour later after three men had stolen and damaged three automo-

They were taken into custody by Patrolman M. F. Powers following a chase that covered Highways 11, 903 and 17 and several dirt roads in the Bear Grass area. Cornered at Eli Bowen's store and gas station on the Williamston-Bear Grass dirt road, the three men submitted to arrest without trouble. Patrolmen B. W. Parker the station just after Patrolman and they turned the three men over to Cpl. John Laws and Patrolman Chadwick who returned them to the camp.

One of the convicts asked a prison guard's permission to wash the guard's car. The two other men slipped into the car, a 1940 Studebaker, and the three drove away. Tearing into the Bear Grass section, they literally burned up the Studebaker and when they reached Farmer J. D. Wynne's home the trio saw J. D. Page's Dodge and decided to switch machines. Page, local insurance man who was talking business with Farmer Wynne. saw the three men get out of the Studebaker and into his car, thinking they were going to move partly blocked by his car. When they started turning around his car, Page ran toward them, reach-Eli H. Robertson, native of Willing the road just in time to be Page ran down the road after his

The son of the late Joseph L. picked up the signal and started and Susan Ellison Robertson, he moving in, Powers from Williamswas born in Williamston 65 years ton, Parker from Stokes, Simmons ago on October 12, 1883. After at- and D. E. Perry from Everetts. tending the local schools, he stu- During the meantime, the trio died and trained in the field of flew low to Highway 17 where telegraphy under his uncle, the they blew a tire rounding the late William A. Ellison, here. In curve. They drove the Dodge to early manhood, he worked for the Hoyt Coltrain's filling station near Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Com- Old Mill Inn and asked for a quick pany as telegrapher in this section tire change. While Coltrain was and Virginia before going to Den- looking over the situation, the ver, Colorado, where he continued three men spotted Joseph Thomin the railroad business. About as Williams' 1940 Ford on the 1912 he located in Lewisport, Ken- grease rack and they took it. Wiltucky, making his home and work- liams hopped on the running ing for the Louisville and Nash- board and tried to turn off the ville Railroad Company until switch key, but Burlington Woodabout a year ago when he located row Jackson, one of the convicts weighing about 235 pounds, land-He was an active member of the ed a fist blow and knocked Wil-Methodist church for many years, liams off. He with the other two serving much time as a steward, convicts, Lawrence Mitchell, 26. A Mason and Shriner, Mr Robert- and Elwood White, 24, drove son was a past grand master of away. They turned off 17 at Her-

Waser other prisoners escaped (Continued on page eight)

#### ROUND-UP

While the long week-end was observed as a holiday period without serious incident, police and other officers were fairly busy rounding up alleged law violators here. Ten persons were temporarily detained in the jail, two for public drunkenness, three for violating the liquor laws, two for assaults, and one each for breaking and entering, bastardy and issuing a worthless

check. Eight of the ten were colored and the ages ranged from 16 to 50 years. Only three persons were jailed during the July 4 holiday period a year