

Thousands See Fifty Minute Parade Here Yesterday Afternoon

Mile-Long March "Biggest" Event Seen In Section

Fifty-four Unit Parade Big Climax To Town's Second Harvest Festival

A mile-long parade, requiring fifty minutes to clear the reviewing stand, climaxed Williamston's second annual two-day harvest festival here yesterday afternoon. Attracting a crowd, estimated between eight and twelve thousand people, or a third more than was present for the first annual event of its kind a year ago, the parade was the "biggest" event ever seen in this section. Visitors were here from eight or ten counties, from all over Martin, and at least two other states.

There wasn't a weak spot in the show, and it was evident that Senator Frank P. Graham, main speaker for the festival, was greatly impressed when he watched the eight high school bands parade by the reviewers' stand. The Williamston Boosters along with the other townspeople feel greatly indebted to the bands and others who participated and helped make the parade a great success. Favorable comment was heard from every quarter, the spectators commending highly the performances by the bands and the work of the volunteer bands. After viewing the young musicians and the twelve princesses, Senator Graham could not help but mention them in his speech, declaring that in them and other youth rested the hope of the world.

The 54-parade units measured up to the best of expectations. Cpl. T. Fearling of the Highway Patrol brought the parade into Main Street off Watts promptly at 2:00 o'clock. He was followed by Senator Frank Graham and other dignitaries, including county officials and town mayors.

The Williamston Public Library had a unique parade entry, followed by Williamston's High School Green Wave Band and high school cheer leaders. Next were two of the giant balloons, followed by Belk-Tyler's "Fashions of Tomorrow" float. Ahoskie's 42-piece band moved up next, the twenty-eight youthful baton twirlers adding color to the march. The first of the princesses, "Miss Ahoskie" moved by next, with a Corey Plumbing Company float, Princess Bear Grass, Courtney Furniture float, and Princess Bethel next in line. Edenton's 48-piece band was next, followed by Princess Edenton. Three giant balloons moved ahead of Princess Farm Life. An old-model Buick, reminding one of the styles of a quarter century ago, was driven by, followed by a Chas. H. Jenkins and Jenkins Equipment Company float, carrying a cub tractor. Other farm equipment, one a tractor driven by a small lad, followed in the parade just ahead of Princess Jamesville. Tarboro's 50-piece band moved up the street next, followed by a horse-drawn float of the Jaycees, offering a lesson in safety. Princess Oak City was next, and John Deere and Lindsley Ice Company moved six units in the line of march. Plymouth's 38-piece band was next, followed by Princess Plymouth. The Lions were next with a regular float, followed by a caged lion and an armed guard. Princess Robersonville was next in line, her driver picking up a weary clown whose identity could not be established immediately and who rated professional status. More giant balloons were carried by just ahead of Princess Scotland Neck.

The 29-piece J. J. Clemmons High School Band of Roper moved up the line of march, followed by a float entered jointly by the Roanoke Chevrolet Company and the Williamston Motor Company.

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ESTIMATES

Estimates on the number of people witnessing the harvest festival parade here yesterday had considerable range. Frankly, it was next to impossible to offer an accurate estimate, for people lined the streets from the residential areas, up Main and out Washington Street.

The lowest estimate offered placed the crowd at 6,000; the highest placed the figure at 18,000. The most common estimates ranged from eight to twelve thousand. Others maintained the number was in the neighborhood of seven or eight thousand. There were more than 600 persons in the parade.

Man Found Dead In Robersonville

Burleigh Nelson, 48, was found dead in an out-house near the Grimes Dairy in Robersonville yesterday morning at 8:30 o'clock. He had been dead approximately twenty-four hours, reports stating that he was last seen about 9:00 o'clock Tuesday morning entering the little house. He was found by John Rogers, colored employe at the dairy.

Making an investigation, Coroner S. R. Biggs said there were no signs of foul play, and it is thought the man died of a heart attack. It was reported that he had complained of a pain in his chest several days prior to his death.

Son of the late Mack G. Nelson and wife, he was born in Pitt County, and moved with his parents to this county when he was quite young, locating near Parmele.

Surviving are three children, Burleigh, Jr., Mrs. James Dickens and Miss Letha Mae Nelson, all of Philadelphia; four brothers, Perlie of Bethel, Johnny and James Henry of Robersonville and Frank Nelson of Leans; three sisters, Mrs. Gilbert Wetherington and Mrs. Lloyd Warren of Robersonville, and Mrs. Will Martin of near Parmele.

Funeral services are being conducted at the home of his brother, Johnny Nelson, this afternoon, and burial will be in the Robersonville Cemetery.

His father lost his life in an accident at the old Mobley Mill near Williamston ten or twelve years ago.

Springtime In Martin County

Cold weather can hit anytime now, but it has been springtime in Martin County during recent days.

As evidence of the summer weather, Mrs. Odessa Smithwick, superintendent of the Martin County Sanatorium, this week plucked blossoms from bushes and trees. Mrs. Smithwick found several blossoms on bare stalks of a fringe bush. Three apple trees nearby had scattered blossoms and several new leaves at the base of the blossoms. Two peach trees had a few blossoms and scattered buds but no leaves, Mrs. Smithwick said.

GOOD

The harvest festival clowns, some slipping in and out under perfect disguise, did a good job in entertaining the thousands of visitors here yesterday. And no doubt, John Ringling would be proud to have several of them for his show.

One or two of the clowns could have passed as professionals without the least trouble.

Shirley Graham, Princess Windsor, Is Festival Queen

Crowned Queen of Harvest Festival At Ball Here Last Evening

Miss Shirley Graham of Windsor was crowned Queen of Williamston's second annual harvest festival in a formal ceremony in the Planters Warehouse here last evening, the event climaxed the two-day festival program. Several hundred, many of them attending the festival ball, witnessed the ceremony and were content to leave the queen selection to the judges, Miss Doris Strong of Charlotte and Mr. Pat Patterson of Washington.

The thirteen young princesses were introduced to the judges and audience by Alford Sweatt, director of the Williamston Boosters, in the following order: Miss Ann Willoughby of Ahoskie, Miss Lib Cherry of Bear Grass, Miss Janice Roberson of Bethel, Miss Sybil Cayton of Edenton, Miss Leona Hardison of Farm Life, Miss June Gardner of Jamesville, Miss Gladys Everett of Oak City, Miss Shirley Roberson of Plymouth, Miss Shirley Stevenson of Robersonville, Miss Faye Walker of Scotland Neck, Miss Rachel Chesson of Williamston, and Miss Graham.

After appearing before the judges, the princesses, attired in evening gowns, were called to the stage and awarded gifts of appreciation, engraved compacts, the director of the Boosters expressing appreciation to the young ladies for participating in the event and helping make the festival a success.

The judges asked for more time, so difficult was their task. Miss Katie Leggett, queen of the 1948 festival, surrendered the crown and Mr. Sweatt placed it on Miss Graham's head, the young lady obliging the former queen with her princess's cap. Miss Graham was then awarded a \$200 diamond ring, made available by the Columbia Ring Company through Peele's, Jewelers.

Miss Graham, a bit shy of the microphone, said she was surprised, but pleased. She was congratulated by the princesses and many of those attending the ball. The ceremony over, the dancers enjoyed a number by Bob Mays and his Collegians before taking intermission and returning to the ball.

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Receive Bid On Highway Project

The paving of a fraction over nine miles of road from a point about three and one-half miles out of Jamesville to connect with the hard surface at the Martin-Beaufort line, will, in all probability, be let by the State Highway and Public Works Commission tomorrow. A low bid of \$113,519 has been received from the J. S. Hill Construction Company of Washington, N. C.

A contract was recently let to the Coastal Construction Company of Wilmington for the construction of a bridge at the old Hardison Mill, placing the cost of the entire project right at \$140,000.

During the meantime, state forces are clearing the right-of-way for paving the remainder of the Holly Springs-Farm Life road. It could not be learned when construction work on the 171 project would be started, but its completion is hardly expected before sometime next spring or summer.

Local Official League Director

Mayor Robt. Cowen of Williamston was re-elected a director of the North Carolina League of Municipalities at a meeting of the organization held recently in Winston-Salem. The local man is one of ten serving in the State in that position, his district including the towns in Dare, Tyrrell, Washington, Martin, Bertie, Hertford, Gates, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck.

Long Session County Court Held Monday

Thirty Cases Are On Docket; Fines Amount To \$865

Jury Recommends License Be Revoked After Finding Man Not Guilty

With thirty cases on its docket and two jury trials to handle, the Martin County Recorder's Court remained in session until almost dark before calling it a day last Monday. Several cases were continued.

Fines imposed during the day amounted to \$865.00 and one or two defendants were sentenced to the roads.

Proceedings: Charged with drunken driving, William Clifton Hudgins was found not guilty, but the jury recommended that the defendant's license to operate a motor vehicle be revoked. Offering its recommendation in open court, the jury said it was of the opinion that the defendant was too nervous to operate a motor vehicle. The recommendation is being passed on to the State Motor Vehicles Department for final action.

John Thomas Perry, who was returned to his county last week after he skipped bond and fled to Baltimore, was sentenced to the roads for six months for violating the liquor laws.

Jim Pierce, charged with assaulting a female, "squeezed" through with a verdict of not guilty.

Thomas James, charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Entering a plea of not guilty and calling for a jury trial, Eugene Rawls, charged with drunken driving and resisting arrest, withdrew his appeal after the State had offered the evidence of several witnesses. He was sentenced to the roads for three months, the court suspending the road term for five years upon the payment of a \$200 fine and costs. His license to operate a motor vehicle was ordered revoked for one year.

The case charging Joe Beach with assaulting a female was continued again.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the case charging James "Buddy" Ruffin with being drunk and disorderly.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Nymphus James was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the road sentence upon the payment of a \$35 fine and court costs.

The case charging Edwin Cordon with being drunk and disorderly, was dismissed.

Grover Dixon, charged with assaulting a female, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, but the road term was suspended upon the payment of the costs. Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Alonza Langley was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs and lost his license to operate a car for a year.

James Langley was fined \$10 and required to pay the costs for being publicly drunk.

Keith Pratt Bowman of Kinston was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs for speeding.

Charged with non-support, Henry Wiggins was directed to pay the costs and \$10 a month for the support of his family until January when the payments are to be increased to \$15 a month.

Charged with speeding Casper Smith, New York man, pleaded guilty and was fined \$15, plus costs.

Matthew Crowell was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the court costs and the amount of the instrument in the case in which W. E. Davis was charged with issuing a worthless check.

Charged with issuing worthless check, (Continued on page six)

TRIBUTE

Senator Frank Graham, addressing a festival crowd here yesterday, paid tribute to rural areas like ours when he pointed out that the poet, Russell, had made a study of city population and found that the people there soon burn themselves out, "and the population and life itself are renewed by people from the rural areas such as yours."

Officers Destroy Six Distilleries In Past Few Days

Illicit Business Dares To Lift Its Head Up In This County

Battered and beaten by a continual drive by ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and his assistants, the illicit liquor traffic still dares to lift its head and bid for a place in the market. It is a changing picture, however, and the officers declare that the manufacturers, finding the business not so hot in some sections, are moving to others. The officers also advanced the opinion that the Martin County product is moving up state, and oddly enough into the "wet" counties, some of it finding dry throats not from the capital city.

Reviewing the control work in the county recently, Officer Roebuck said that six plants had been wrecked and several partial distilleries were found during the period.

Week before last, the officers wrecked an oil drum still, poured out 100 gallons of sugar mash and found two partial plants in a single day in the Dardens section of Jamesville Township.

On Tuesday of last week, the officers wrecked a 50-gallon capacity copper kettle in Bear Grass Township, tore down five 150-gallon fermenters and poured out 600 gallons of sugar beer.

Raiding along the Martin-Beaufort line last Thursday, the officers wrecked a 40-gallon copper still and poured out 100 gallons of mash and four gallons of white liquor.

Continuing their work that day, (Continued on page eight)

Justices Handle Few Cases Here

Only a few cases were handled by Justices John L. Hassell and Chas. R. Mobley here during the past few days.

In the case in which Joe Mizelle was charged with false pretense, Justice Hassell found probable cause and sent the case to the superior court with the defendant under bond in the sum of \$200. It was charged that the defendant sold a mortgaged mule.

Charged with disorderly conduct, Thomas Meeks was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the term upon guaranteed good behavior for twelve months and the payment of \$9.50 costs.

Pierce Lynch and Sarah Ward, charged with trespassing on colored school property, were sentenced to jail for thirty days, the court suspending the jail sentence on condition that the defendants stay off the property.

Charged with violating the dog law, Luther Perkins of near Jamesville was fined \$5 and taxed with the costs in Justice Mobley's court.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

The Woman's Club has completed plans for a big Halloween carnival in the club hall tomorrow evening, beginning at 7:00 o'clock, and hundreds of youngsters are expected to attend and participate in the various games. Many nice prizes are to be awarded.

Better Attitude For Mentally Ill Exists In State

State Board of Health Now Administering Funds For New Program

By William H. Richardson
Raleigh.—The public's attitude toward the mentally ill has been greatly modified since the word "insanity" has been thrown into discard and a more charitable and understanding attitude assumed toward the inmates of our institutions for the mentally sick.

The light of hope and reason seems to be breaking at last, now that mental illness definitely has become an object of attack through preventive medicine and a recognized Public Health problem. Within the past few months, Governor Scott has designated the State Board of Health as the State agency in North Carolina which will administer Federal funds made available in carrying on our mental health program, together with available State funds for that purpose. While the organization of a Mental Hygiene program has not been perfected, yet the ground work is being laid for an attack to be waged against mental illness as one of the present and future Public Health problems.

Let us for a moment review the present mental health picture in North Carolina, as it is reflected in our institutions for the mentally ill. According to a recent fact sheet, there are now 9,550 persons hospitalized in this State for mental defects, or illness. This, according to the latest compilation, is just 125 short of the entire available bed capacity of all general hospitals in North Carolina in May, 1948. Among those in our State institutions are 1,285 feeble minded and 671 epileptics. There were 180 patients who received the first admissions to State hospitals for the mentally sick in February, 1949, alone.

North Carolina is now providing more hospital care for its mentally ill than in the past. Its average patient population in 1946 was 7,568 as compared with 8,552 in 1947-48. Furthermore, better care is being given the State's mentally ill. This is shown by the fact that there were 6.9 per cent of patients in 1946 and only 5.4 patients per cent in 1947-48. The cost of care, largely reflecting the higher cost of living, increased from \$393 per patient in 1946 to \$584 per patient in 1947-48. Physical improvement of State hospital buildings also is being accomplished. Approximately \$14,000,000, including Federal funds, was made available by the 1947 General Assembly. Purchase of the Camp Butler site and buildings under construction already account for \$4,000,000 of this.

The above reflects investments for care and treatment and not prevention, but it is encouraging to note that more money is being put into this humanitarian service, which naturally means better care of the mentally sick and happier surroundings for them. Hospital care, however, is nothing new. That has been going on in humane states and countries for many decades. North Carolina has not always kept pace with progress in this respect. Hospital care is not enough for the mentally ill, any more than it would constitute a panacea for any other preventable sickness. As was stated earlier, Governor Scott has designated the State Board of Health as the agency to be responsible in North Carolina for the execution of this State's part in the nationwide Mental Health Program now in progress and for which North Carolina is receiving its proportionate share of Federal funds, made available for the purpose. While the Board of Health's Mental Hygiene work has not been fully organized, a long range program is being formulated, looking toward attacking mental sickness for a preventive standpoint.

It is heartening to note that preventive work now is being done through one school social worker and eight mental health clinics partially supported by State and Federal funds. These (Continued on page seven)

U. S. Senator Spoke Here Wednesday To Big Festival Crowds

STATES HIS STAND

Speaking to Williamston's second annual harvest festival yesterday afternoon, Senator Frank P. Graham stated his stand. "Despite what the great commercial interests may have to say, the farms in our land must be recognized as the base for civilization. And for the sake of Main Street, the back street, Wall Street and all streets, let's keep price supports for the farm," he said. "Some might say I'm saying this because I'm in a great farming area, but I tell you I'd say it anywhere, and spread it on the pages of the Congressional Record for all to see."

Senator Graham Great Traveler

His willingness to serve the people keeps Senator Frank P. Graham on the move. Despite obstacles he, with the help of a good wife, the former Miss Marian Drane of Edenton, manages to keep his appointments.

On their visit here yesterday, Mrs. Graham explained that when her husband was president of the Chapel Hill unit of the Greater University of North Carolina, they had the services of a yard man and a cook. "Now he is Senator and I find myself doing the work of a yardman and cook in addition to chauffeuring him around," Dr. Graham does not drive.

Monday night, the Senator spoke in New York. Tuesday night he was in Iredell County, reaching their temporary home in Chapel Hill yesterday morning about 3:00 o'clock. Unable to make plane connections, the Senator was driven here by his wife, reaching here hardly more than fifteen minutes late in their Ford car.

Before the exercises were over yesterday afternoon, Mrs. Graham returned alone to Chapel Hill while her husband caught a ride to Elizabeth City about 4:30 o'clock. He was to board a plane there for a quick trip to Virginia and Washington before going to Raleigh and Fayetteville.

Handle Traffic Without A Hitch

Although motor vehicles moved into town by the hundreds and north-south travel was thick, traffic was handled without a hitch by local police and members of the highway patrol during the town's second annual harvest festival parade yesterday afternoon.

Several blocks in Main and Washington streets were roped off, to give the parade: elbow room. Through traffic was directed around the business section over South Houghton Street, Marshall Avenue and Watts Street.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Four persons were injured and a property damage, estimated at \$1,360, resulted in a series of highway and street accidents in this county during the past week.

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.

42nd Week				
Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge	1949	5	4	0
1948	4	6	0	2,000
Comparisons To Date				
1949-105	46	5	\$23,385	
1948-106	53	2	24,450	

Frank P. Graham Explains Recent Farm Legislation

Pleads for Cooperation Of All Peoples In Move For Freedom and Peace

Addressing Williamston's second annual harvest festival, United States Senator Frank Graham yesterday afternoon made a strong plea for the cooperation of town people, country people, or farms and factories of localities, states and nations in our interdependent world for the freedom, welfare and peace of all people. His address was the feature event on the two-day festival program and was broadcast over part of the eastern North Carolina radio network.

Just before Senator Graham spoke from an improvised stand in the main street just across from the city hall, Mayor Robert Cowen welcomed the approximately ten thousand people and expressed, on behalf of the town, appreciation to the neighboring towns and communities sending their bands and princesses here for the parade and to all others who participated and helped make the event successful.

Introducing the speaker, Attorney Elbert S. Peel declared "I am proud I live in Williamston today and to see the biggest crowd I have ever seen here since moving my family here in 1902 from Jamesville." He added that the crowd was a third larger than the one attending the festival a year ago. "Frank Graham taught youth for more than twenty-five years and served our State well. Now, we have lent him to the nation and to the world. We love him for the enemies he has made. Moscow objected to him when he worked for peace in Indonesia. Some industrial leaders quarreled with him for voting for the new farm bill, and the communists declared he was a tool of Wall Street," Peel said, adding that the former university president came to this section to get a wife.

Senator Graham said he was happy to be in Martin County today, and added that the best thing he ever did was his coming to the Albemarle to find a wife. A stranger in the section, he told how he folk, ved a sign on old No. 90 highway to save 75 miles in his trip to Manteo. "I saved the mileage, but lost eleven hours waiting for ferries," he explained.

Asked what hope we have in this dark world, the Senator told about a time he was at Nags Head when a hurricane struck. The water "poured in our cottage and we moved to another on higher ground," he said. "I tried to reassure the neighbor's cook and get some assurance myself, and I looked out the kitchen window and suggested that the water there was receding a bit. The cook told me that she wasn't worried about the three feet of water, that she was worried about the 3,000 miles of water out in the ocean."

The speaker continued, "It isn't the problems at home—farm, labor and industrial—it is the problem at home—farm, labor and industrial—it is the problem 3,000 miles across the ocean and around the world. But as we confront those problems, let's begin at home. As I look in the faces of the people here today I have hope. Your cooperation displayed in staging this successful event is reassuring. We are one united people. We are making progress. We are building roads, improving our schools and hospitals. We are all building for a greater North Carolina."

The former university president expressed the hope that federal aid to education would come, that there will be a time when every child will have equal opportunity. (Continued on page six)