

Former Local Boy Hero Of Picture "12 O'Clock High"

Premier In Hollywood Recently Big Affair In The Movie World

Frank Armstrong, U. S. Air Force General who made his home in Williamston during his youth with his grandparents, the late Clerk of Court and Mrs. J. A. Hobbs, is the hero of a recent movie, according to Hollywood Movie News appearing in one of the New York papers last week.

Commenting on the picture, the Movie News said, "Lots of 'class' and Air Force Brass combined to make the Hollywood premiere of 'Twelve O'Clock High' a really glamorous night to remember. General Curtis LeMay flew in from Washington just for the doing, and then, right out again. But the real hero of the picture and the evening's festivities was beloved General Frank Armstrong, who is the central character in the film and whose real-life role is played by Gregory Peck.

Reviewing the premier, Time Magazine had the following to say:

Next to the annual Academy Awards presentation, Hollywood's highest social rite is the full-blown premiere (pronounced premer). Last week, close to the deadline for the annual Oscar sweepstakes, 20th Century-Fox shot the works on the premiere of its own contender, Darryl F. Zanuck's war film, Twelve O'Clock High. The result was the very model of the full, colossal treatment.

For weeks, 23 studio employees had labored over a six-page blueprint of arrangements budgeted at \$30,000. They sent out 2,000 seven-inch gilded tickets to Who's Who in Hollywood, taking pains to give choice locations to the elite and to keep known enemies and recently divorced couples seated apart. From the cooperative Air Force they got an imposing turnout of brass, a 67-piece band and a flight of bombers. From the Los Angeles police they got 100 cops to keep a crowd of 6,000 open-mouthed fans in check. From Fox's own studio wardrobe, they supplied attending starlets with full finery, including ten gowns, eight fur coats and two mink stoles.

As the big event began, the usual klieg lights were dimmed by ten anti-aircraft searchlights that threw 15-mile beams up over Grauman's Chinese Theater. Snappily uniformed attendants parked the arriving Cadillacs (many rented for the evening at \$25). From the red-carpeted curb, past an awed crowd of sandwich-munching fans in bleachers around the entrance stepped scores of stars into the arms of 14 pressagents, who whisked them to a platform for an amplified introduction. The standard response: "I hear this is one of the greatest pictures..." Inside were 32 special usherettes and four extra theater managers from other Fox cinemansions.

Afterward came the studio's biggest protocol headache: a party at Mike Romanoff's restaurant, which can hold only 250—of the very best people, of course. When it was time for comments about the film, everyone seemed to have enjoyed it. There was no need to fall back on the standard gambit of those who are forced to comment on a bad new movie: "What a picture! What a performance!" Fox figured that, all in all, it was well worth the \$30,000.

PROGRESS

Construction work on the new hospital here is going forward rapidly. Starting work about two months ago, the builders are planning to complete the main walls within a week or ten days, weather permitting.

Part of the roof is being placed, and a greater part of the building has partition walls. No completion date has been mentioned, but building superintendent, R. J. Brock, said that construction is well ahead of schedule.

Fifty - Seven Cases In County's Court

PRESIDENT



G. P. Hall, Williamston's fire chief, was elected by unanimous vote at a quarterly meeting in Edenton Tuesday evening president of the Eastern Carolina Firemen's Association for the current year.

Twenty-Eight In Court Monday On Speeding Charges

Several Exceed Limit In 35-Mile Zone; Fines Total More Than \$400

Motorists, traveling under the name of speeders, had a big reunion in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday. Twenty-eight were booked for exceeding the speed limit, including quite a few who were charged with running within the prescribed limit but in excess of the rate allowed in speed zones.

Several of the defendants literally howled against the fixed cost of \$22.05, but once the defendants pleaded guilty or were adjudged guilty there was little the court could do but tax them with that amount of cost, plus the statutory fine of \$15. Asked what would happen if he refused to pay the fine and costs, one defendant, admitting he was guilty, decided to pay off when it was explained that the alternative was so many days in jail. Fines, averaging a little more than \$15, amounted to \$430.

Harry Clayton Roberson of Robersonville and Joseph Cotton of Bethel were each fined \$15 and taxed with the costs for allegedly running 50 miles an hour in a 35-mile limit zone. Pleading not guilty, Cotton was adjudged guilty.

Running 55 miles an hour in a 35-mile limit zone, McDonald Dixon of Elizabeth City, was fined \$15, plus costs.

Charged with speeding and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Marvin B. Stewart of Vanceboro was fined \$40, plus costs.

Pleading guilty, each of the following defendants was fined \$15 and taxed with \$22.05 costs: Ernest Jenkins of Robersonville, Elmer Murry Leggett of Williamston, Walter Willoughby of Greenville, Joseph M. Terry of Williamston, William Nathaniel Taylor of Williamston, James Henry Jontes of Williamston, Cleaster Cornburn of Robersonville, Ned Randolph Charles of Dania, Florida, Moe Abrams of Brooklyn, Janet West of Mansfield, Pa., Charles Fuller of Arvenc, N. Y., Herbert Lee Harris of Greenville, Titus W. Harrison of LaGrange, Erwin Rosenberg, Brooklyn salesman; Paul S. Rosenberg, private detective of Brooklyn; David Woodstein of Newark, N. J., Daniel J. Ferioli, contractor of West Springfield, Mass.; Norman Harris, dry cleaner of New Rochelle, N. Y.; John Wesley Davis, minister of Tyner, N. C.; Leon S. Brown of Stokes, Frank Clay Cox, service manager of Daytona Beach; Glen Howard Stewart of Vanceboro, Samuel Katz of Millburn, N. J., and Neshan K. Havliagian, a tailor from New York.

Fines Imposed At Monday's Session Amount To \$1,055

Alleged Liquor Law Violators Find Sledding Tough In Court

Fifty-seven cases were handled in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday in a session lasting until almost dark. Twenty-eight of the cases involved alleged speeders who paid a total of \$430 in fines into the court. The twenty-nine regular cases accounted for \$625 in fines, boosting the total take for the day to \$1,055. Several defendants were given time on the roads to meditate over their erring ways.

Alleged liquor law violators found the sledding tough in the court, their fines, substituted for road terms, accounting for much of the cash income for the day.

Proceedings: Charged with violating the liquor laws, Willie Whitaker pleaded guilty and was fined \$50, plus costs.

Clebourne D. Shores of El Centro, California, and Colgate, Oklahoma, was fined \$100 and taxed with the costs for drunken driving. His license to operate a motor vehicle was revoked one year, according to law.

Entering no plea in the case in which he was charged with larceny, C. B. Biggs was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs and \$8 for the auto battery. The defendant is not to violate another criminal law.

Pleading not guilty, Willie Stokes, Jr., was adjudged guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to the roads for thirty days.

Roosevelt Carney was fined \$25, plus costs, for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license. Adjudged guilty of bastardy, Willie Gorham was sentenced to the roads for six months. Execution of sentence was suspended upon the condition that he pay the court costs and three dollars a week for the support of his illegitimate child during the next two years.

Fate Coffield, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of the costs. He is to violate no criminal law during the next two years.

The case charging Billy Gene Tetterton with being drunk and disorderly, was remanded to a Jamesville justice of the peace for trial and judgment.

Pleading guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, Thelma Louise Brown of Vanceboro was sentenced to jail for three months to serve at the county home. The jail term was suspended upon the payment of the costs, a \$25 fine and \$37.75 for Willie B. Jackson's doctor's bill.

W. B. Boyd was found not guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon.

Pleading not guilty, James Stanton, colored, was found guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to the roads for six months.

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Hold Holliday Funeral Today

Funeral services were conducted in Kecoughtan, Virginia, this morning at 10:00 o'clock for Gainer R. Holliday, native of this county who died in Veterans Hospital there last Saturday evening. Interment was in the cemetery there.

Mr. Holliday, a native of the Jamesville section, suffered a stroke at his home in Hertford County a few weeks ago and entered the hospital soon thereafter. He was a veteran of World War I.

Justice Of Peace Hears Nine Cases In Court Recently

Several To Be Tried For Violation Of Compensation Laws Of State

Nine cases were handled and several others were sent to the higher courts by Justice R. T. Johnson in his court here this week. No other justices reported any proceedings in their courts, but Justice Chas. R. Mobley is scheduled to hear several cases, charging violations of the unemployment compensation law. The cases are tentatively scheduled for Friday of this week.

Proceedings in Justice Johnson's court:

Publicly drunk, Allen Rascoe was taxed with \$5.85 costs. Lillie Berry, a fairly frequent visitor in the courts either as a defendant or prosecution witness, was sentenced to jail for ten days for being drunk and disorderly. She appealed to the higher courts.

Publicly drunk, James Mullen was required to pay \$5.85 costs.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper lights, Jack Welch was taxed with \$5.85 costs.

In the case in which Harry D. Wroten was charged with the improper registration of a motor vehicle, the defendant was taxed with \$5.85 costs.

The cases in which Alfred Hollis and Rudolph Goff were charged with operating motor vehicles with improper lights were not prosed or dismissed.

Artist Leo Barnes, charged with failing to stop at an intersection, was taxed with \$5.85 costs.

Ray Clark was required to pay \$7.85 costs on a drunk charge.

Farm Bureau To Meet On Friday

The Martin County Farm Bureau will hold a special meeting in the county courthouse Friday night of this week at 7:30 o'clock, Secretary W. M. Hardison announced this week.

Delegates to the national Farm Bureau Federation convention held in Chicago last month will report to the membership at the meeting.

Delegates to the State convention to be held in Raleigh February 12 to 15 will be named. All members of the organization are invited to attend.

Special Program In Local Church

Three widely known personalities will appear here for one night only at the Methodist Church, Williamston, N. C., on Thursday, January 19, 1950, at 7:30 o'clock.

Pat B. Withrow, Jr., noted speaker, humorist, and song leader, will head the unit and present a full hour of music, dramatic experiences, and entertainment. Mr. Withrow will lead you from laughter and tears, from sober reflection into a stimulating spiritual experience you must not miss.

The program will also feature the talents of Ivy and Al Walsh. Many have heard these artists over ABC on the Studebaker Program. They have devoted their lives to bringing enrichment and enjoyment to others. They sing solos and duets accompanied by Ivy's Frontalini accordion. This happy couple can bring you the cleanest entertainment you have ever enjoyed.

Al was the winner of a four year scholarship to Rolins College, and was a veteran of World War II, having served in the Pacific Theatre with distinguished service in the U. S. Army.

Ivy has thrilled many audiences, large and small, with her beautiful soprano voice, and everyone is amazed at the ease with which she handles the accordion and sings simultaneously.

These artists are appearing here in the interest of Veterans Hospital Programs, now in its 4th year of continuous operation. This is a non-profit organization devoted to the relief of the aged and infirm.

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Guard Members to Undergo Physical Exams This Week

Sixty-seven Sign Up In The National Guard Unit; Room For More

With at least sixty-seven signed up, the Martin County National Guard Unit is now rushing to meet the inspection deadline on January 24. Commanding Officer E. S. Peel, Jr., said this morning. Announcing that the membership had exceeded the fifty-man minimum, the officer explained that there are still openings for other recruits, that unless membership is taken before the January 24 inspection, a waiting list would have to be encountered. Additional men can be taken into the unit only as replacements or until such time as the National Guard increases the quota. At the present time the quota is 120 men and four officers.

Arrangements have been made with Drs. Rhodes and Harris to handle the physical examinations in the Martin County Health offices tonight and Friday night, beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Members of the unit are asked to report for the physical tests on one of the two nights since other appointments could possibly be delayed.

The minimum membership figure was passed at a meeting of interested young men in the Legion Hut here Tuesday evening, and yesterday several youths in the Jamesville area signed up.

Plans are being completed today for housing the unit in the old water plant on Sycamore Street until permanent quarters can be provided either in some other building or in an armory.

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Democratic Party Officials To Meet

Members of the Martin County Democratic Executive Committee are being called into special session next Monday night at 8:00 o'clock to handle special business. Chairman Elbert S. Peel announced today. The committee includes the chairmen of the thirteen precinct committees, county chairman, secretary and treasurer.

Democrats in this county are being asked to raise \$300 for the party this year, and plans for the canvass will be formulated at the meeting. The important business scheduled for consideration will be the selection of a chairman of the Martin County Board of Elections to succeed Mr. Sylvester Peel who faithfully served the county for a long number of years until his death last year. While the committee is not empowered to name the chairman, its recommendation is tantamount to election by the State Board of Elections.

Vice President Of Southern Dairies

J. O. Bowen, who married Miss Emma Robertson of Williamston and who has visited here often in recent years, was recently made vice president of Southern Dairies, one of the largest handlers of dairy products east of the Mississippi.

In charge of operations in the South for a number of years with headquarters at Miami, Mr. Bowen is now stationed in Washington, D. C.

HOG KILLINGS

Hog killings are the order of the day on farms in this county. There's at least one hog killing in nearly every community daily.

Preliminary reports indicate that Martin farmers will kill an ample supply of meat this year with some to spare. Weather conditions have not been very favorable for meat packing, but many farmers have packed their meat in cold storage plants.

Will Submit Corporate Limit Extension Plan To The People

Start Drive For Infantile Paralysis Fund Next Week

The annual drive to raise between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in this county for the infantile paralysis fund will get under way next Monday. Chairman L. B. Wynne announced today. The school children, white and colored, will spearhead the drive, while direct appeals will be made by letter to quite a few in the county, the chairman explained.

Last year, \$4,476.52 was raised for the fund in this county. While the local need has lessened somewhat, the disease reached epidemic proportions in other sections of the country and the need is great. Several states have conducted special fund-raising campaigns since January of last year, and since Martin County and North Carolina have received far

more from the national fund than has been paid in by them, it is fairly certain that our people will show their appreciation and meet the solemn obligation. Last year in this county, \$1,755.25 was spent in caring for one new case and several old ones, and half the amount collected was forwarded to the national fund, leaving a balance of \$470.30 in the county treasury. Should the disease strike even one child in the county this year, the available money in the fund would not be sufficient to meet the emergency. It is hoped by the chairman and others that the good people of this county will support the drive and build a fund large enough to meet any and all emergencies. The money is made available to all infantile paralysis cases.

To Discuss Plan At Open Meeting On January 23rd

Town Board In Delayed Regular Meeting Handles Business Last Night

Looking forward to meet the needs of a growing town and community, Williamston's town commissioners in a delayed regular session last night made arrangements to submit to the people plans for extending the incorporated limits. A public meeting was scheduled for Monday night, January 23, at 8:00 o'clock when the plans will be mutually discussed by the town officials and any interested parties.

The law for extending incorporated limits as explained at the meetings, makes it possible to annex territory without a formal election, but not unless the plan is agreeable to more than 85 percent of those affected. In other words, if fifteen percent of the voters sign a petition and call for a election then the proposal will have to be submitted to a vote of the people, including those inside as well as those outside the present limits.

Two proposals for extending the limits are being advanced, one for West End and the other for North End. If fifteen percent of the people in the West End area desire to carry the matter to a vote, then the petition must be prepared and submitted to the town officials at a special meeting to be held in the town hall on February 13. If fifteen percent of the people in North End desire to vote on the proposal then a petition is returnable at a special meeting of the town officials to be held on February 20.

The board last night passed a resolution, calling for a full explanation of the annexation plan, a detailed description of the territory subject to be annexed, and a full discussion of what can and cannot be expected.

A full explanation of the proposal will be reviewed just as soon as liners are established and a detailed study of the program can be made. It was explained, however, that a survey of needed public facilities within the present town limits and those outside the limits is in the making. If the extension is voted down then it is proposed to go ahead with the facilities expansion program within the present limits. Plans for the survey are about complete, but no action can be taken until it is determined whether those people in West End and North End wish to be included. It was pointed out that while they would be glad to see the town grow and all work together, the commissioners made it plain that the action rested entirely with those people living outside the present town limits, that the proposal should be studied from every angle and a decision reached only after careful consideration.

In addition to discussing the extension of the town limits, the board directed the street and water departments superintendent to go ahead with plans for housing the Martin County unit of the National Guard in the old water plant on Sycamore Street.

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Local Office Earns First Class Rating

Receipts Amount To \$40,703.89 In Year Just Ended

Postmaster W. E. Dunn Is Very Optimistic Over Outlook For 1950

Handling a record volume of business, Williamston's post office squeezed into the first class group with a little to spare in 1949. Postmaster W. E. Dunn announced yesterday. Receipts, amounting to \$40,703.89, were increased by approximately \$4,000 during last year over those of 1948 to put the office in the top rating group.

While increased postage rates helped account for part of the increase, Postmaster Dunn points out that the gain ratio was about the same as it has been for the past several years and that the volume of business reflects a growing town and an increasing patronage. That the postage rate boost did not have too much to do in supporting the rating is evidenced by the quarterly gains, the record showing that the first quarter receipts were almost \$1,500 greater than they were in the corresponding period in 1948. The gain in the second quarter was negligible, but the third period showed an increase of more than \$1,100, while the fourth quarter income was hardly \$1,000 greater than it was in the last three months of 1948.

Commenting on the new rating, Postmaster Dunn said that it would make available to the office greater requisitions and a larger stock, that the personnel could be increased to meet the needs. Small increases in salaries accrue to the postmaster and his assistant, F. E. Wynne, but the salary schedule for clerks and other employees is not affected.

The financial section handling money orders, bonds and other instruments will open at 9:00 a. m. and close at 5:00 p. m. except on Saturdays when the office closes at noon time.

It is estimated that the office sold one and one-third million stamps or their equivalent during last year to annex the enviable rating, the postmaster explaining that income is based almost entirely on stamp sales.

While income from stamp sales showed a healthy increase, money order business fell from \$299,687.31 in 1948 to \$265,540.05 last year. The money order window started off with a fairly big bang in the first quarter of the year, gaining about \$4,000 over the total for the first three months in 1948. It lagged a little in the second quarter, and then in the third

quarter, it showed a slight increase. An able speaker has been booked for the event, and all members are asked to be present.

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TAX LISTING

Fairly complete reports from most of the ten townships state that 1950 property listing is progressing very well. "Most of the list-takers state that the work is most farther advanced this year than at the same time for 1949," Supervisor M. L. Peel said yesterday.

While the list-takers in most districts are fairly busy there's little waiting. However, a last-minute rush is very likely, and property owners will find it to their advantage to list without further delay.

Plans Go Forward For New Church

The Church Board of the Williamston Christian Church met in its regular monthly meeting Monday evening. The building committee made its report and recommended to the board and Church that the ground breaking for the new Church home should be made not later than Easter Sunday. The board accepted the report and recommendation of the building committee with commendation for its fine work. The board then considered this recommendation and approved it enthusiastically. The board is now making plans for a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 22, at the morning worship hour to secure its approval. Letters will go out to every member of the church acquainting them of this meeting and urging their attendance.

The plan of building will be along the general line suggested by the architect of the Brotherhood of the Disciples of Christ and will be built on the lot acquired several years ago from the W. C. Manning estate. It is altogether fitting that the new church home of the Williamston Christian Church should be built on the land of one of the outstanding leaders of the local Church and the Brotherhood of the state, Brother W. C. Manning, who for many years was president of the North Carolina Christian Missionary Convention and an elder of the local church.—Reported.

Farm Life Ruritan Meet Next Tuesday

The Farm Life Ruritan Club will hold its first regular meeting of the new year next Tuesday night at 7:00 o'clock in the school lunch room there, it was announced today.

An able speaker has been booked for the event, and all members are asked to be present.

PLANT BEDS

Farmer Toba Bowen out in Bear Grass has started tobacco seed 'flying', reports stating that he was among the first, if not the first, to start the 1950 tobacco crop. While many farmers have prepared their seed beds, few have sown the seed.

More farmers are using special chemicals to check weed growth this year than ever before, and quite a few are planning to sow special disease resistant seed.