

## Promise Shipment Of Fixtures For Department Soon

### High School Functioning Very Smoothly Despite Serious Handicaps

Despite handicaps created by a shortage of equipment in the home economics department, over crowded conditions, and inadequate recreational facilities and housing, Williamston's High School is operating very smoothly, a member of the local committee declared following a long-delayed inspection of the plant last Friday.

A new building program now in the making will relieve some of the conditions now existing, and a summer schedule of repairs will wipe out some of the individual sore spots, but it is almost certain that the physical development of the school youths will continue to be centered around a dilapidated barn, known as a gymnasium.

Making an impromptu visit to the school, representatives of the committee were welcomed by the school people, and showed over the premises. The boiler room harbored no fire hazard, and like the other properties was well kept, that is, within janitorial reach. Home-made curtains flew from the windows in several rooms, but the shades were battered. No broken windows were detected that day. The toilets were unusually clean, and considering what they have to work with, the school folks were doing a good job, the committee representative declared.

Coach Maynard and his boys, using paint and odd pieces of lumber, have the old gym in a high state of preservation, but it is readily admitted that to eliminate the barny appearance, someone will have to start from scratch.

The lunchroom, housed in a workshop located some distance from the school, was operating smoothly at lunchtime. A solid and fairly appetizing meal, consisting of a slice of bacon, macaroni and cheese, vegetables and bread, was being served for twenty cents. Milk was available to those who wanted it at six cents a glass.

The science department possibly holds the highest rating of any in the school when it comes to equipment and general interest; in fact, there was a better spirit prevailing in all quarters over in the new high school unit, except in the home economics division where the children are literally being robbed in certain courses. Equipment ordered for the kitchen almost a year ago, has not been delivered, and activities there were described as disheartening. It was later learned that delivery was promised last September. The date was then changed to December, then to January. A long distance call was made to the manufacturer in Illinois.

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## Jos. S. Griffin Named President

Jos. S. Griffin, well-known Bear Grass farmer, was elected president by unanimous vote of the Martin County Branch of the North Carolina Mutual Fire Insurance Association at a meeting of the officers and stockholders held in the courthouse last Saturday afternoon. He fills the position made vacant by the death of Mr. Sylvester Peel who faithfully served the organization as president for a number of years. Mr. Griffin, serving as vice president of the organization for some time, was succeeded in that position by M. Luther Peel. George C. Griffin continues as secretary-treasurer.

The association is starting the new year with a cash balance of \$36,000, and the meeting ordered an assessment of one-quarter of one percent for the current year. It was reported at the meeting that the losses in the association last year amounted to \$2,000, and that approximately two million dollars of insurance is now in force.

## Opposing Proposed County School Plan

### CALL FOR CARDS

Pointing out that production and marketing records cannot be verified accurately without them, the Triple A office in this county is again urging farmers who have not already done so, to deliver or send their tobacco and peanut marketing cards to the office without further delay. Warehouse and purchasers' records are available to the office, but they cannot be verified without the individual marketing cards, it was explained, and it is to the advantage of the growers to have his production verified.

Those farmers who have lost or misplaced their marketing cards can verify their production and marketing on a special form now available in the agent's office.

## Series Of Road Wrecks Reported In This County

### No One Seriously Hurt and Property Damage Held To Low Figure

No one was badly hurt and property damage was held to a comparatively low figure in a series of motor vehicle wrecks reported on the highways in this county during the past few days, members of the State Highway Patrol said yesterday.

Driving east on Highway 64, between Robersonville and Parmele, about 1:30 o'clock last Thursday morning, Inspector Smith lost control of his 1946 Chevrolet and the machine turned over about three times before striking a tree and coming to a halt. The driver, traveling alone, suffered an arm injury, and damage to his car was estimated at \$300 by Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation.

In Robersonville last Friday evening about 7:00 o'clock, Mrs. Nunn Everett was driving her 1949 convertible Ford east on Academy Street when Heber Sutton, young Ayden white man, lost control of his 1949 Mercury and tore into the rear of the Everett car after running on the street curb. Damage to the Everett car was estimated at \$40 and that to the Mercury at \$50 by Patrolman B. W. Parker. Said to have been drinking, Sutton allegedly drove away without stopping, but Robersonville police and Patrolmen Parker and M. F. Powers picked him up within thirty minutes after the wreck. He was booked for hit-and-run and drunken driving.

Driving on a dirt road about two miles out of Bear Grass last Sunday evening shortly after 7:00 o'clock, Oliver Harrison, Jr., lost control of his 1937 Ford and ditched it, doing about \$50 damage to the machine, according to John T. Rowe who made the investigation.

Yesterday morning, two taxicabs, a Chrysler driven by Fenner Respass, and a Buick driven by a man named Slade, crashed here.

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## Undergoes Operation In Rocky Mount Today

Quite ill for several months, Mr. W. H. Williams underwent a major operation in a Rocky Mount hospital this morning.

## Schedule Hearing In Raleigh Early Part of February

### Predict Consolidation Of All Negro High Schools In Three Centers

Open opposition to certain phases of the new school building program in Martin County was announced last week when representatives of the Parmele Negro High School went before State officials and agencies in Raleigh, suggesting that plans for a new Negro high school in Oak City be blocked. According to reports reaching here, representatives of the Parmele school appealed to Governor Kerr Scott and appeared before the planning unit of the State Board of Education.

As far as it could be learned, no action has been taken but a public hearing is to be held before the State Board of Education in Raleigh on February 2 at which time the proposed program plans and the opposition will be reviewed.

No action has been taken to discontinue the Parmele High School, but the representatives, directly or indirectly, are predicting that the high school unit there will be closed in time as a part of the new program now being advanced.

A new high school unit at Oak City is included in the program now pending. It is pointed out that the Oak City unit will take a goodly number of students from Parmele with the possibility that others will go to an enlarged school in Robersonville. The consolidation program, it is argued, will be completed with the enlargement of the high school in Williamston.

With no definite plans for consolidating the Parmele High School with other units, the Board of Education, working with the State Planning Commission, acted to relieve a serious transportation problem. Some of the busses serving the Parmele school now are traveling more than sixty miles a day. The Negro population in the Oak City area is reported to be increasing, unofficial information reaching here stating that twenty pupils moved out of the white schools there during the holiday period, that the white tenants were being replaced by colored families.

Facilities, while undoubtedly lacking in some respects, are on a par with those in other schools.

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## Will Hold Wage And Hour Meeting

A public meeting will be held Thursday at 7:30 p. m. at the city hall in Greenville to discuss and explain the new Federal wage and hour law effective January 25. The Greenville Merchants' Association, sponsors of the meeting, have extended an invitation to the public and interested businessmen of Martin County and surrounding areas to attend the meeting.

Association President Charles B. Bissette will preside over the meeting and Forest H. Shuford, Commissioner of Labor, and federal representatives will be on hand to explain the new amendments to the Fair Labor Standard Act.

## Ninety Men Sign Up For Duty In National Guard

### To Examine Last of Men In Williamston Wednesday Evening at 7:30

Final arrangements for activating the Martin County unit of the North Carolina National Guard are being rushed to completion, Commanding Officer E. S. Peel, Jr., stated this morning that it is going to be a close race to have the unit ready for inspection next Tuesday.

Reviewing the progress of the unit to date, Commander Peel stated that 65 men have been examined, that fifty definitely passed. Three failed to pass the physical tests, and twelve are to be rechecked on one or more details. Twenty-six additional men are to report along with the dozen whose status is not yet certain at the Martin County Health Department offices, second floor of the town hall in Williamston, Wednesday evening for physical examinations.

Ninety men are now in line for places in the unit, it was announced, and it is likely that even more recruits will come in before the dead line tomorrow evening.

Captain Henry V. Reid, representing Headquarters of 252 D AAA Group, North Carolina National Guard, will be here Wednesday and Thursday of this week to aid in the final organization of the unit. He will be accompanied by a full-time sergeant instructor who will help with final arrangements for making the unit ready for inspection by high-ranking officers next Tuesday night.

Quarters for the battery are being prepared in the old municipal water plant on Sycamore Street.

Billy Biggs has passed requirements of first lieutenant and other officer candidates, including Peel, Raleigh Harrington, Davis VanNortwick and Lawrence G. Lindsley are awaiting order to report to Raleigh possibly on Friday of this week for

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## Asking Vote On Annexation Plan

Unofficial reports state that a vote will be asked on the plan to extend Williamston's town limits to include that territory to the north and west.

The action was taken before a public meeting could be held for a discussion of the proposed plans, the commissioners having announced that such a meeting would be held on January 23 when it was hoped the matter could be mutually discussed. At their last meeting, the commissioners expressed the hope that the matter could be studied, that after all the facts were considered and those affected did not want to be included in the town limits, it would be their privilege to vote against it.

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## Critically Hurt In Shipping Accident

Leslie M. Jackson, brother of Mrs. Fitzhugh Fussell of Williamston, was critically injured in a shipping accident at Norfolk last Saturday. Jackson, a chief steward in the Merchant Marine, was directing the loading of stores when a hoist went out of control and knocked him off the ship to a concrete pier thirty feet below, fracturing his skull, jaw bone, and hip.

Mr. and Mrs. Fussell were called and spent the week-end there.

## Democrats Name Carstarphen For Board Elections

### Recommend Worsley Of Oak City For Reappointment To the Board

C. D. Carstarphen was unanimously recommended for a place on the Martin County Board of Elections by members of the County Democratic Executive Committee in a meeting held in the courthouse Monday evening. He is to fill the position handed efficiently and faithfully for nearly twenty-two years by Mr. Sylvester Peel who died last year. The recommendation came when A. Corey, county representative in the State Legislature and chairman of the Jamesville Township Precinct Committee, offered him in nomination and the move was seconded by J. D. Wynne, chairman of the committee in Bear Grass, the unanimous vote following.

Hassel Worsley, Oak City man who was appointed a member of the committee to succeed Alvin Haste, resigned, was recommended by the group, leaving the Republican organization in the county to make appointment recommendations for a candidate for the third position on the county board.

The recommendations will be presented to the State Board of Elections and action is expected by that group in March. It could not be learned when the Republicans would take action, but it is considered likely that Mr. Wade Vick, Robersonville man who has ably served as a member of the board for a number of years, will be named again.

The committee in its meeting advised against a new registration for the coming elections. In accordance with a 1949 law the registration books are to be combined this year, and the committee advanced the opinion that a transfer of names to the new books would be acceptable. However, final action on that point rests with the board of elections.

A request for new ballot boxes will be directed to the authorities, members of the committee pointing out that several of the boxes are too small and others are in bad repair.

Delegates to the Jackson Day dinner in Raleigh were named as follows: A. Corey, E. S. Peel, Clarence Griffin, S. L. Roberson and H. G. Horton.

Party finances were discussed, and the group agreed to get out and raise \$460. The following districts were asked to raise the necessary fund:

Jamesville, Griffins, Bear Grass, Cross Roads, Hamilton, and Goose Nest, \$25 each; Williams, Gold Point, Poplar Point and Hasell, \$15 each; Williamston, \$150, and Robersonville, \$100.

E. S. Peel, chairman of the county committee, presided. The

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## Will Continue Referee Hearing

After listening to the plaintiff's testimony the greater part of five days, Referee Clarence W. Griffin will resume hearings in the case of H. H. Cowen against Willie and Dennis Modlin tomorrow.

While very little land along Reedy Swamp in Williamston Township is involved, the suit is developing into a big one. The evidence will fill several hundred pages, and the cost is almost certain to run into the hundreds of dollars.

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## Farm Bureau Asking Higher Parity Price

### Vote Against The Pre-Measurement Of Tobacco Land

#### Members of Organization In Meeting Friday, Hear Convention Report

Declaring that agriculture still is not on an equal footing with other economic groups, the Martin County Farm Bureau in a special meeting held in the courthouse last Friday evening passed a resolution, asking for 100 percent parity for farm products. The resolution, offered by George C. Griffin, Griffins Township farmer, was passed by unanimous vote. It will be forwarded to the state organization for consideration at the convention to be held in Raleigh the middle of next month.

In another resolution, the meeting went on record as opposing the premeasurement of tobacco land. It was pointed out that there is a concerted movement in some areas to have tobacco acreage measured before planting with the possibility that no check will be made after planting. It was reasoned that the practice would open the way for abusing the quota system and weaken the program.

When asked to take a stand on the proposed Branan farm program, several members of the Farm Bureau explained that they did not know too much about the plan, that they thought it wise to wait and hear Branan, the secretary of agriculture, discuss it at the convention in Raleigh during the week of February 12.

The following were named to represent the county organization at the State meeting:

Marvin Leggett, H. U. Peel, Chas. L. Daniel, S. T. Everett, Joe Winslow, T. B. Brandon, J. B. Whitfield, Reuben Everett, Jack Smith, E. V. Smith, M. T. Bennett, Henry Early, George Griffin and Mayo Hardison. This county has eleven votes, and while all the delegates will not be present for every session, it was planned to have a sufficient number there each day to represent the county.

Reporting on the national convention held in Chicago last month, Delegates Jesse Sumner, Garland Forbes and C. L. Daniel briefly reviewed the activities, declaring that it was an important event.

Sumner said that the West is disturbed by the expanding livestock program in the South. The raisers in the West realize that conditions in the South are more favorable for livestock than in the West, Sumner said. It takes about forty acres to carry one cow in some sections of the West while one acre in the South will carry two cows, the agent explained. Dairy expansion in the South is also causing the Westerners some concern. The assistant county agent also pointed out that the convention proposed a different plan for grading hogs.

The farmers stated that the finish of a hog rather than weight classifications should be considered. Southern representatives were quoted as saying that the big problem in the South is marketing, that the markets in most instances are inadequate.

Delegate Forbes said that the national organization reported 1,409,705 members. He reviewed

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## Youths Arrested For The Theft Of Rocky Mount Car

### Meek and Humble, Boys Talk About Wanting To Go To Penitentiary

Running away from the East Carolina Training School near Rocky Mount after prayer meeting last Wednesday night, three 15-year-old youths, Jerry Spence of Apex, Junior Fuller of Lexington and A. B. Taylor of Williamston, were arrested here late the following day and returned to the school by Patrolman J. T. Rowe and Officer Willie Modlin.

Jumping out of a dining room window, the lads made their way to Eastern Avenue in Rocky Mount and made a systematic search of cars. Before finding a 1937 model Ford tudor with the keys in it, the boys allegedly took a flash light, field glasses and other property of little value from parked cars. Traveling east the boys reached Robersonville where the lights went out about 4:00 Thursday morning. According to the story told by the boys, two of them seated themselves on the front fenders and held flashlights while the third one drove the machine.

The car was ditched near Ske-warkey sometime early that morning, the boys apparently seeking refuge in the Taylor boy's home. Thursday afternoon, Patrolman Rowe saw the ditched car and started an investigation. Accompanied by Officer Chas. R. Moore, the patrolman went to the Taylor home, and when he knocked on the front door there was a hurried scramble inside. The officer learned that the boys had been there and jumped out a kitchen window when they heard someone knocking on the door. Patrolman Rowe started around the house and got to the side just in time to catch Fuller. The other two jumped a fence and escaped. Officer Moore gave chase and while passing through a yard, a bull dog got after the trio, slightly injuring both of the boys. They made their way to a swamp and left the officer when they waded into water almost waist deep.

Patrolman Rowe radioed for help and Corporal T. Fearing and Patrolmen B. W. Parker and R. P. Narron answered. Captain John Delbridge was asked to bring the bloodhounds from the prison camp, and the two youths were tracked down a short time later and placed in a patrol car out on the Hamilton Road.

Meek and humble, the boys told how they ran away from the training school and admitted stealing the car. The little "big shots", puffing on cigarettes and cigars, declared they did not get enough to eat in the institution and expressed the desire to be sent to State's prison. Their clothes torn and their legs scratched by briars and bushes, Taylor and Spence were treated at the police station, one report stating that an entire bottle of iodine was needed to cover all the scratches.

Since entering the school from

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### GOOD START

The annual March of Dimes drive for the Infantile Paralysis Fund is off to a good start in this county. Fund Drive Chairman L. B. Wynne said today. The early response to the direct mail appeals is encouraging, the chairman explaining that the first contributions were averaging well over \$5.50, and that the replies are numerous.

Taking the appeal to the general public, the school children are really "going to town," but reports are yet incomplete.

Martin County is being asked to raise between \$4,000 and \$5,000, and contributions will have to be numerous and liberal if that goal is reached. The drive continues through January 31.

## J. A. Stalls Died At Home Saturday Near Jamesville

### Well-Known Farmer Of County Born and Reared Near Robersonville

J. A. Stalls, well-known Martin County farmer, died at his home in Dardens at 5:40 o'clock last Saturday morning.

The son of the late Robert and Mary Ann Scott Stalls, he was born in the Robersonville section sixty years ago and spent most of his life in the community, before locating in Jamesville Township about seventeen years ago.

He was first married to Miss Margaret Smith of Robersonville who died twenty years ago. About eighteen years ago he was married to Mrs. Carrie Ange of Jamesville Township. Surviving are his widow, three daughters, Mrs. Florence Harden and Mrs. Blanche Simpson of Plymouth, and Mrs. Magdalene Stalls Joyner of Birmingham; two sons, James Stalls of Jamesville and Melvin Stalls of Plymouth; two stepsons, James Ange of Cherryville, N. C., and Robert Earl Ange of Norfolk; a sister, Mrs. Nancy Bland of Everetts.

Mr. Stalls was a member of the Cedar Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Paplar Point for a long number of years. He was held in high esteem in his home and adopted communities as a neighbor and friend, and was a progressive farmer.

Funeral services were conducted in the Gospel Light Christian Church at Dardens last Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by the Rev. J. D. Waters, assisted by the Rev. Paul B. Nickens, Baptist minister of Plymouth. Interment was in the Dardens Methodist Church cemetery.

## Escape Injury In Road Accident Last Thursday

Mrs. Dewey Hayman and daughter, Mrs. Raymond Parent, former local residents, escaped uninjured when their station wagon went out of control near Pewells Point on the Elizabeth City-Nags Head Highway last Thursday and turned over. Damage to the vehicle was estimated at about \$1,000.

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### ROUND-UP

Five persons were rounded up and temporarily detained in the county jail over the week-end, including two young white youths.

Three of the five were charged with public drunkenness, and one each with drunken driving and an assault.

The ages of the group ranged from 18 to 70 years. Arrests during the period were the smallest in number for any week-end so far this year.

**The Katzenjammer Kids, Snuffy, Wimpy, and Jiggs join the March of Dimes**

**A-MARCHIN' WE VILL GO**  
OUR BANKS DEY BULGE WIT DOLLARS WE'RE OFF TO CHOW DER MARCH OF DIMES UND FIGHT DER PO-LI-O!

OUTA MAH WAY, WOMAN! ME AN MY BOOBY, O DIMES IS GONNA START A LI' FELDIN' WITH THAT CONGRAN POLIO!

WAIT UP, YER BODACIOUS IDJIT! - I GOT A MITE O' AMMUNITION FER TH' MARCH OF DIMES, TOO!

I PROMISE MYSELF I'D DO UP SOME MONEY FOR THE MARCH OF DIMES - WES IS ME IF THIS TREASURES MAP IS A PHONY!

I KNEW IF I SAVED ME OL' DINNER RAIL, I'D COME IN HANDY - I'M ON MY WAY TO JOIN THE MARCH OF DIMES!

DEEP UP AGAIN WHEN IT'S EMPTY JIGGS - ME AN THE BOYS WANNA GET IN ON THAT RIGHT AGAINST POLIO - TOO!