

## Town Officials In Regular Meeting Here Last Night

### Police Instructed To Cite License Violators To The Courts

It's either buy town motor vehicle license tags or go to court, the local board of commissioners ordered in regular meeting last night. It was explained that there had been some misunderstanding about the old law requiring the purchase and display of town license tags on motor vehicles. It seems that some members of the police force directed those vehicle owners who had not bought town tags to do so, and in those cases \$1 penalty would have been in order. The meeting last night instructed the police department to cite violators and submit a duplicate copy to the clerk. If the licenses are not bought, then the case will be carried into the courts. Nearly 700 of the approximately 800 vehicles in town are now displaying the new town tags.

Hearing a petition in which fifteen or more citizens pleaded for the elimination of unnecessary noises, the board is expected to take action against operators of motor vehicles operating without mufflers or with "guttered" mufflers. Loud telephone bells maintained by taxi operators on the streets are to be muffled or removed. Unnecessary noises are to be wiped out by police order.

Approximately 1,200 feet of cyclone fence is to be purchased and placed around the lot at the water plant for the storing of National Guard Company equipment, the fence to cost around \$1 a foot.

Extra parking space for filling stations was denied, the officials explaining that if one business operator is allowed free parking in metered zones, others would be entitled to it.

A plea for keeping the sidewalks open around filling stations and in front of the town hall was heard, but no action was taken at the meeting.

The treasurer reported that \$53,725.92 of the \$75,394.22 tax levy for 1949 had been collected, and that the town had a cash balance of \$21,668.31.

## Fugitive Sought Refuge In Jail

Tired of running from the law, Robert Fisher from Kalamazoo, Mich., reported to Sheriff M. W. Holloman in this county, told his story and asked to be locked up. The officer accommodated the 32-year-old white man, and contacted Michigan authorities who asked that the man be held. Later a message was received from the parole officer, explaining that Fisher had only two months to serve, that he was not worth sending a man for.

Fisher, with \$3 in his pocket and still neat in his one suit of clothes, left the jail Monday afternoon.

Fisher said that he was wanted in Michigan and other states for forgery, explaining that he had specialized in check flashing up until last September. Asked why he wanted to give up, he declared that it was hard for him to hold a job, that he had to keep moving before his record caught up with him. He had no comment to make on the recent turn of events, and started on his way.

### ROUND-UP

Seven persons were rounded up and jailed in this county last week-end, officers explaining that, as a whole, all was fairly quiet on the crime front during the period. All seven were booked for single crimes, including forgery, drunken driving, shooting fireworks, trespass, assault, drunkenness and interference with an officer in the performance of his duty. Three were white and the ages of the group ranged from 17 to 34 years.

## Leading Sweet Potato Farmers In This County



Listed among the leading young sweet potato farmers in Martin County are the 4-H and FFA boys pictured above. The picture was made by Extension Service Photographer Mattox during the two-day farm school held in the courthouse week before last. Included in the picture are top winners of the recent sweet potato growing contest.

They are, kneeling, left to right, William Hardison of Jamesville, Lewis Gurkin and Gerald Griffin, both of Farm Life; standing, Gilbert Ange of Jamesville, Jack Woolard of Williamston, Fred Griffin of Jamesville, Ward Perry of Williamston, C. A. Martin of Jamesville, Billy Woolard of Williamston, Glenn Hyman and Dallas Cox of Oak City, and David Gurkin of Farm Life.

## Tug Boat Burned At Jamesville Saturday

### WAY SHORT

All the reports are not yet in, but it is fairly certain that the infantile paralysis drive will fall way short of its goal in this county.

According to information released by Chairman L. B. Wynne Monday, less than \$2,700 had been raised and reported at that time. Only a few schools are yet to report, the chairman said.

It is possible that the fund will be increased by late mail contributions, it was explained, but it is likely that the total amount this year will fall \$1,000 or more below the 4,300 raised last year.

## Mrs. Nora Downs Died Suddenly at Home On Sunday

### Funeral Service In Hassell Church Tuesday Afternoon at 3 O'Clock

Mrs. A. E. Downs, beloved citizen of the Hassell Community in this county, died at her home there early last Sunday morning of a heart attack. Apparently in her usual health, Mrs. Downs was feeding her chickens when she suffered the attack, death following a short time later.

Mrs. Downs, the former Miss Nora Purvis, was born in this county 63 years ago and was a life-long member of the Hassell Christian Church, serving faithfully in the Woman's Council and in other church activities. Affectionately known as "Miss Nora", she was a friendly and helpful neighbor, never tiring in the service of those in need.

Funeral services are being conducted in the church this afternoon by her pastor, Rev. Olin Fox, assisted by Rev. James M. Perry of Robersonville, and the Rev. Z. B. T. Cox of Farmville. Interment will be in the Robersonville Cemetery.

Surviving are five daughters, Mrs. Allen McLawhorn, Mrs. C.

## Fire Slips Away As Firemen Fight It At Jamesville

### Loss Unofficially Estimated At \$80,000 With \$40,000 Insurance in Force

Just about the time volunteer firemen from Williamston were about to whip it down, a big \$80,000 fire quietly slipped away and drifted down the Roanoke at Jamesville last Saturday night shortly after 9:00 o'clock. The firemen, pumping water out of the river, were left helpless and there was nothing to do but stand and watch the burning tug boat drift down the stream and out of sight around a bend about a mile away. The lines, holding the tug to the bank, burned in two, and it was impossible to fasten another line and hold it in reach of the firemen.

A second tug was sent to pull the burning boat back, but it caught fire and backed away, holding a safe distance until the fire subsided and then pushing the steel hull to one side of the river where it sank almost out of sight. Jamesville volunteer firemen were first called and they were hooking up a small pump when an air tank started leaking, the hissing sound, taken as a preliminary warning of an explosion in the tug boat oil tanks, deserted the equipment without delay. As soon as the hissing sound subsided, a second attempt was made to start the pump. Just then a second tank spilled air, and a second retreat followed without the execution of an order.

During the meantime, Williamston's fire department was called and a 750-gallon capacity pumper was dispatched there about 9:00 o'clock. Pumping water from the river, the firemen almost had the fire under control when the boat slipped from its mooring, and drifted out of reach.

The tug had moved hardly more than 200 yards down the stream when the oil tanks exploded, sending flames hundreds of feet into the air.

## Native Of County Died Monday In Durham Hospital

### Funeral In Whiteville For Jesse N. Coburn Tues- day Afternoon

Jesse N. Coburn, native of this county and a prominent business man of Whiteville, died in Duke Hospital Monday morning at 12:30 o'clock. Suffering a stroke of apoplexy about three weeks ago, he underwent several operations in the hospital last week and was apparently responding to treatment when he had a relapse during the week-end.

The son of the late Jesse M. and Pattie Johnson Coburn, he was born near Robersonville, 53 years ago on July 22, 1896. After spending his early life on the farm, located in Robersonville where he was employed by the firm of J. H. Roberson and Company for a while. He entered the armed forces on May 27, 1918, and served with Co. E, 324th Infantry overseas from August 5, 1918, until June 16, 1919, receiving his honorable discharge on June 25, 1919.

After attending business college in Richmond, he was employed with the bank of Robersonville for a few years, transferring to Rockingham where he worked in a bank a short time before locating in Whiteville about 25 years ago and where he continued his work in the banking business. During his stay in Whiteville, he figured prominently in the business, civic and religious life of that section, and at the time of his death was executive vice president of the Waccamaw Banking and Trust Company.

He was a past president of the North Carolina Bankers Association and was well known in banking circles throughout the State. He was married to Miss Hattie Green of Robersonville. Surviving besides Mrs. Coburn are a daughter, Miss Virginia Coburn, teacher in the Fairmont schools, and a son, Jesse Marion Coburn, student in Davidson College; and three sisters, Mrs. Harry L. Meador of Williamston, Mrs. R. S. Fountain of Weldon, and Mrs. C. C. Rawls of Hamilton.

Mr. Coburn was an active member of and officer in the Whiteville Presbyterian Church for a number of years, and his pastor is conducting the funeral service

### BUILDING BOOM

A little boom in building construction was heard here last week when foundations were laid for six homes.

Jos. Griffin is building two on Ray Street. D. Jones is building one on Beech Street and Chesley Jones is also building on the same street. R. J. Brock is starting a two-story brick-stone house on East Vance Street, and work is progressing rapidly on a garage apartment for Miss Edna Barnhill on Liberty Street just across the way from the Ripleys.

## Action Delayed On New Health Center

### State Commission Gives Approval To \$50,000.00 Project

### Commissioners Appropri- ated \$1,000 For Sweet Potato Specialist

Advised that the North Carolina Medical Care Commission had approved a new health center for this county, the Martin Board of Commissioners in regular session Monday discussed the plan but delayed action until further studies can be made.

It is proposed to construct a brick building 63 by 60 feet to house the Martin County Health unit, the project to cost an estimated \$50,000. It was explained that the county's share of the cost would be about 27.4 percent of the total, or about \$13,700.

According to reports, the commission found the present health offices inadequate, that more space is badly needed. No final action by the officials of this county is anticipated until site costs and other details are determined. In keeping with an expanded sweet potato program in the county, the commissioners agreed to appropriate about \$1,000 for a potato specialist's salary. Pitt County, a short time ago appropriated that amount, and Edgecombe is expected to cooperate. Sneaking

## Funeral In Local Church Sunday for Mrs. David N. Hix

### Native of Williamston Died At Her Home In Oxford Saturday Afternoon

Mrs. David N. Hix, the former Miss Mary Bonner Gurganus, died at her home in Oxford Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. She had been in declining health for almost two years and her condition had been critical for several weeks, after receiving treatment in various hospitals in this State and New York.

The daughter of Mrs. Mary Bonner Hatton Gurganus and the late George N. Gurganus, she was born in Williamston 43 years ago on September 22, 1906, and spent most of her life here. Educated in the local schools and at Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, she returned to this county and taught school in Bear Grass and Everetts for several years. She was married November 15, 1929, to Mr. Hix, principal of the Everetts and Williamston schools for a number of years before going to Oxford six years ago where he was principal of the high school before being elected superintendent of Granville County schools two years ago.

A friend to everybody, she was held in high esteem in her home and adopted communities where she figured prominently in religious and civic activities. She devoted her life to her family and friends, lending a sympathetic understanding and a helping hand to those in need. Her life exemplified all that was good and noble, and was so unselfishly lived.

Surviving besides her mother and husband are a daughter, Nancy Carolyn; four sisters, Mrs. S. L. Copeland of China Lake, Calif., Mrs. Philip Waters of Windsor, Mrs. Finley Hatch of Norfolk, and Mrs. Ray Ferris of Novelty, Ohio; and four brothers, George Hatton, John Hatton, Eli and Edgar Gurganus, all of Williamston. Wheeler M. Ward, making his home with the family since he was ten years old, was regarded as a brother by her.

Mrs. Hix was a member of the Methodist church, and Rev. E. R. Shuller, pastor, and Rev. Sam A.

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## Explains Wage-Hour Law In Address Here

### CHECK FLASHER

After forging several checks in local business establishments last week, A. J. Cox, 35-year-old Beaufort County man, fell into the hands of the law at Tarboro last Saturday, and will be returned to this county for trial just as soon as he pays his obligations off in Edgecombe.

Local firms, including B. S. Courtney, Western Auto and Thrower Hardware and Appliance Company lost little or no money, but he made a fairly sizable haul in Plymouth, one report stated. Cox made a purchase at the hardware store, and asked to increase the amount of the check for change. Manager Thrower ruled that out and before the goods were delivered, it was learned that no such account as that listed by Cox was carried in the local bank. Cox used the name of A. J. Clary and A. J. Cherry on the checks.

## Delegation Claims Dissent Charge Is Without Merit

### No Decision On The Oak City School Plan Like- ly Before March 3

Efforts to block a plan approved by the Martin County Board of Education and the Building Committee of the State Board of Education and calling for the construction of a Negro high school in Oak City were virtually abandoned, temporarily at least, last week when a delegation of twelve Negroes from the county appeared before the State Board of Education and vigorously denied the charge that W. C. Chance, Parmele school principal, had "promoted dissent instead of harmony between the races", that Chance had taught that "any show of friendship by whites to Negroes should be regarded as hypocritical, that whites merely were 'using' Negroes when they extended a helping hand."

Heading a delegation of thirty from the county, Rev. Spencer Burnett of the Oak City community appeared before the Building Committee of the State Board of Education in Raleigh last Wednesday and supported the Oak City plan, lodging the charges against the Parmele school man and declaring to the education board members that "he (Chance) is trying to mislead you gentlemen."

The Parmele school man carried his appeal to Governor Kerr Scott in a special conference some time ago. It could not be learned with whom other conferences were held, but Chance, accom-

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## Oak City Clinic Being Reopened

Closed for some time, the clinic in Oak City is being reopened by the Martin County Health Department, it was announced last week-end by Health Officer John W. Williams. Wilbur Barrett has reconducted the offices formerly occupied by Dr. E. E. Pittman and the clinic will be open each first and third Thursday, for the present time. The prenatal clinic will be held there on the third Thursday, it was explained. Dr. Pittman will be in charge of the baby clinic when he returns.

The Oak City commissioners are paying the rent on the offices which will make it more convenient for those above the town who have been going to Hamilton.

The health department will keep the Hamilton clinic open each Friday afternoon and prenatal examinations will be made every third Tuesday. Dr. Hemmingsway will continue as clinician in Hamilton.

## Commissioner Of Labor Speaks In County Thursday

### New Law Affects Only Those Who Handle Goods In Interstate Commerce

"The Amended Federal Wage and Hour Law" was the subject of an address last Thursday in the Martin County courthouse by Forrest H. Shuford, North Carolina Commissioner of Labor.

In his talk Commissioner Shuford discussed the Congressional amendments to the Wage and Hour Law which became effective on January 25. The floor was then thrown open for questions from the audience which the State official answered in detail.

The Federal Law applies to those workers who (1) are in interstate commerce, (2) those who produce goods for interstate commerce, and (3) those whose work is closely related or directly essential to the production of goods for interstate commerce. Shuford explained.

"Many employees of local service and retail establishments have the mistaken idea that the new 75-cent an hour minimum wage and other provisions of the Wage and Hour Law apply to them," Commissioner Shuford said. "I want to emphasize that this law generally does not cover workers in these local service and retail business, such as clothing, grocery, hardware, variety, department and drug stores; laundries and dry cleaning plants; restaurants, soda shops, barber shops, hotels, service stations, and the like."

Shuford explained that the Wage and Hour Act, like various other types of federal legislation, follows the provision in the Constitution which gives Congress the power to regulate interstate commerce. Local business, or intrastate commerce, is outside the scope of the Act, he stated.

As a simple illustration of the difference between interstate and intrastate commerce, he stated:

## Two Road Wrecks In This County

Hilton Biggs, young white man, was painfully cut on the head when the 1940 Ford sedan driven by Nathan Mizelle, turned over on a dirt road not far from Cross Roads Monday morning at 7:30 o'clock. Mizelle was not hurt. Damage to the car was estimated at \$300 by Patrolman M. F. Powers, the investigating officer.

Mizelle said he was driving along about 40 miles an hour and hit a bump in the road. He lost control of the car and it went into a ditch and turned over.

Driving his pick-up truck east on Highway 64 not far from Gardner's Creek last Thursday, D. Andrew Griffin had to stop quickly to avoid crashing into a State motorgrader. Robert Edmond Robb of Columbia, S. C., driving behind Griffin, could not stop immediately, and drove his 1949 Chrysler into the rear of the pick-up truck, doing about \$75 damage to his car and about \$5 or \$10 damage to the truck, according to Patrolman E. P. Simmons who investigated the accident. No one was hurt.

### SCHEDULE

In a recent meeting, Williamston Boosters fixed a schedule of holidays for local business establishments. Beginning April 19, local stores will observe the half-holiday schedule each Wednesday afternoon until the opening of the tobacco market. Easter Monday, July 4 and Thanksgiving Day were included in the list of all-day holidays. The Christmas holiday schedule will be fixed later.