

## James H. Hopkins Dies Suddenly At Home In Oak City

Funeral Monday For Oak City Official and Prominent Citizen

James Herbert Hopkins, prominent county citizen, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Oak City Saturday evening at 9:20 o'clock. Troubled with a heart condition for six or seven years, he had suffered several attacks in recent years, but last Saturday he was in good spirits and was apparently getting along all right.

While Mrs. Hopkins was visiting in the neighborhood, he suffered the attack about 9:00 o'clock. He managed to get to the telephone and call for help, and several friends and Mrs. Hopkins reached him a few minutes later or just a short time before the end. He was reading his paper when fatally stricken.

The son of the late James Herbert and Laura Medford Hopkins, he was born in Scotland Neck 53 years ago on July 2, 1898. Orphaned when he was only a few months old, he spent his early life in Scotland Neck and went with the Atlantic Coast Line as a messenger boy when only seventeen years of age. He learned telegraphy after working hours and was soon promoted, holding agencies for the company in several eastern Carolina centers, finally locating in Oak City where he obtained a leave of absence from his company and engaged in the mercantile business for several years. Ill health forced his retirement from railroad service in 1947. Although retired from business, he did not give up his interest in the affairs of his community and county. He served Oak City as a progressive commissioner for a number of years, and as mayor for several terms, always promoting worthy undertakings and stressing the finer and nobler things in life. He also served his community as a justice of the peace, supported the schools and maintained a sympathetic interest in his fellowman. As a member of the Oak City Baptist Church for a number of years, he took a leading roll in its support and activities.

Mr. Hopkins affiliated with the Concho Masonic Lodge in Hamilton, transferring his membership when the lodge was consolidated with the Skewarkey Lodge at Williamston. He was in attendance upon the meeting last week and looked forward to be present for another session this week.

He was married in 1916 to Miss Annie Mae Harrell of Oak City, and she survives with two daughters, Mrs. D. Ralph Childree of Richmond, and Mrs. William Gray of Williamston and Parris Island, S. C.; one brother, Wilmer Hopkins of Norfolk; a sister, Mrs. J. A. Thomas of Portsmouth, and one grandson.

Funeral services were conducted at the late home Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by his pastor, the Rev. W. C. Modlin, assisted by the Rev. J. P. Harris of Bethel. Interment was in the Oak City Cemetery.

## Traffic Halted By Heavy Fog Here

Traffic was all but halted in this area late last night by heavy fog. At one time shortly after midnight one could not see a street light less than a block away. Members of the highway patrol said the fog on the town's lower main street was the thickest they had ever seen.

Travelers were snowbound, one report stating that lodging was at a premium before the night was spent.

Only one accident, traceable partly to the fog, was reported in this immediate area. Walter Scott Henning, 3220 Loxley Road, Richmond, ditched a 1948 Packard on Highway 125 near the Whitley home about 10:45 o'clock last night. Reporting the accident, Leslie Lambert said it was on 125 but that it was so foggy he did not know just where it was. No one was hurt in the accident and no estimate on the damage could be had immediately.

The fog was dissipated during the early hours of this morning.

## Will Nominate Farm Program Committee

### BLOCKED

Heavy deliveries of peanuts in recent days have just about blocked the markets in some sections of the belt. The Planters Company went off the market here late yesterday when word was received that a day or two would be needed to catch up with the deliveries. Other buyers here are still on the market, but purchases are being limited between the hours of eight a. m. and eight p. m., the government limiting its graders to those hours.

It is estimated that 95 percent of the drop has been picked and that possibly 60 percent of the harvest has been marketed in this county.

## County Board In Regular Meeting Monday Morning

### M. Luther Peel Reappointed To Supervise 1952 County Tax Listings

The Martin County Board of Commissioners, holding a regular meeting Monday morning, reappointed M. Luther Peel to supervise the 1952 tax listing, and went on to perfect its working organization and handle routine matters before winding up its affairs for the remainder of the 1951 calendar year.

The tax supervisor, in addition to handling the tax collections, will name his list-takers shortly and make plans for a meeting with them the latter part of this month, possibly on the 28th. Few changes are likely to be made in the listing personnel, it was learned.

Albert S. Peel was reappointed county attorney for 1952.

The board recommended that two roads, one in Williams Township and the other in Goose Nest Township, be added to State Highway system and be maintained by the highway commission forces. The road in Williams starts near No. 90 Station and runs about two miles to the Davenport place, and is known as the Davenport Road. The road in Goose Nest runs off Highway 44 about 12 miles from Oak City about one mile southeast to the Jones Road. The petition carried eleven signatures.

The Board also recommended the widening of the highway underpass on Williamston's West Main Street ever since a school bus was wrecked at the underpass several months ago, there has been much agitation behind a plan to have the route widened and sidewalks laid there.

Making his monthly report, Tax Collector M. L. Peel said that \$247,668.25 of the \$279,939.90 levy for 1951 had been collected. All but \$11,985.11 of the \$336,635.00 levy for 1950 has been collected. There is a balance of \$6,294.04 uncollected on the \$313,706.69 levy for 1949, and \$4,441.32 is still unpaid on the \$284,594.80 levy for 1948, the collector reported.

The commissioners discussed plans for repairing the main hall in the courthouse, but no contract was let for the work. The plaster (Continued on Page Eight)

## Former Manager Hotel Here Dies

Kenneth A. White, former manager of the George Reynolds Hotel here for a few years, died Sunday morning in a Kecoughtan hospital after a lingering illness. He was born in Elizabeth City 59 years ago, the son of the late B. M. and Mamie Knight White. The family moved from Williamston to Ocean View several years ago, but more recently he returned to his old home in Elizabeth City where he was associated with the Ziegler Funeral Home until he entered the hospital for treatment of a heart condition.

## Will Name Seven Farmers In Each Of The Districts

### Election of the Nominees And County Committee To Follow Later

Martin County farmers in each of the twelve districts will meet at designated places in their respective communities at 7:30 o'clock p. m. on Thursday of this week and nominate at least seven of their number to handle the Production - Marketing Administration or old Triple A program in this county during the next year.

A special invitation is being issued to every farmer to attend the meeting in his respective community and participate in the nominating convention. It is squarely up to the farmers themselves to say who are to handle their program next year. They have the right to re-nominate and re-elect the old committee slates in their entirety, a part of them or none of them.

At least seven persons are to be nominated in each district for the following positions: three members of each community, two alternate members, a delegate and an alternate to the county convention.

The meetings are to be held in the following communities: Bear Grass, Bear Grass High School, Cross Roads, Taylor's Filing Station in Everetts.

Goose Nest No. 1, Agriculture building, Oak City.

Goose Nest No. 2, Agriculture building, Oak City.

Griffins, Farm Life School, Hamilton, Hassell School, Jamesville Nos. 1 and 2, Jamesville High School.

Robersonville Nos. 1 and 2, City Hall in Robersonville.

Williams, County Home.

Poplar Point and Williamston, agriculture building in Williamston.

While each farmer may vote for anyone he chooses to vote for, he is asked to consider the following points that will help make up a real committee: a good farm manager, uses the latest methods in farming, interested in his neighbor's and his community's well being, willing to devote some time and energy to P.-M. A. work, has leadership ability and the respect of his neighbors, and one who is active in the conservation program.

The persons nominated for the various positions in the conventions on Thursday evening of this week will be voted on in a regular election to be held a week later. Immediately after the regular election, the delegate will meet in a county convention and elect a committee for the county.

### Raise Small Amount In TB Bangle Sale Locally

A total of \$59.30 was raised through the sale of tuberculosis bangles here last Saturday. The sale was handled by the Girl Scouts.

Prizes were awarded to the three girls selling the most, as follows: Miss Bonnie Jones received first prize for selling \$11.76 of the bangles; Miss Gail Mangolis, second, who collected \$8.85; and third prize went to Miss Mary Lee White for collecting \$8.40.

### SANTA

Santa Claus is making his appearance in this community this week for 422 members who participated in the 1951 Christmas Savings Club conducted by the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company. Approximately \$37,000 is being distributed at the rate of about \$88 per member.

The club this year is the largest ever conducted by the bank, and already members are signing up for the 1952 club.

## John Heber Peel Died at His Home Thursday Night

### Funeral For Prominent Farmer Held In Macedonia Church Saturday

Funeral services were conducted in the Macedonia church last Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for John Heber Peel, prominent county farmer who died at his home in Griffins Township Thursday evening at 8:15 o'clock. The pastor, the Rev. P. E. Cayton, assisted by the Rev. W. B. Harrington, Baptist minister, conducted the rites, and interment was in the Griffin family cemetery in Griffins Township.

Mr. Peel had suffered with a heart condition for some time, but his condition was not considered critical. He worked all day Thursday, but complained of a shortness of breath that evening. He had finished the evening meal and was sitting in the living room with members of the family talking when he suffered the attack and died almost instantly.

The son of Mrs. Susan Frances Coltrain Peel and the late E. Slade Peel, he was born in Bear Grass Township 50 years ago on March 14, 1901, and spent all his life on the farm in the Bear Grass and Griffins community. He also engaged in the building trade when not engaged in farm work.

A member of the church at Macedonia for a number of years, he was active in its work and a leading citizen in his community.

Surviving besides his mother are his widow, the former Miss Rosa Griffin; four brothers, Henry and George Peel, of Griffins Township, W. Oscar and Lucian Peel of Griffins Township; five (Continued on page eight)

## Former Resident Of County Dies

Mrs. Zasia Cox Cannon, a resident of this county for a number of years, died at her home in Mt. Olive early last Thursday morning after a long illness.

The daughter of the late Jutrey Hart and Biggs Cox, she was born in Pitt County near Ayden 56 years ago and spent her early life there. She moved with her family to this county about 1920, living in the Hassell-Hamilton communities for about fifteen years before moving to Mt. Olive.

Surviving are her husband, J. W. Cannon; one son, O. B. Cannon, of Mount Olive; eight daughters, Mrs. W. C. Daughtry, Faison, Mrs. Wade Midgett, Swansboro, Mrs. James Joyner, Calypso, Mrs. A. C. Sevany, Saint Paul, Minn., Mrs. James Parker, Seven Springs, Mrs. Anthony East, Goldsboro, and Martha and Mabel Cannon of the home; three sisters, Mrs. Meaken McLawhorn, Winterville, Mrs. Zeno McLawhorn, Ayden, and Mrs. R. A. Haislip of Oak City, seven brothers, Zadoc Cox and Z. D. Cox, of Oak City, the Rev. Z. B. T. Cox, Farmville, Z. T. Cox, Rocky Mount, George D. Cox Winterville, Lee Cox, Ayden and Gaston Cox, Liberty; and eight grandchildren.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Mount Olive and a charter member of the Eastern Star there.

Funeral services were held in the Baptist Church in Mount Olive Friday afternoon, the pastor Rev. Isaac Terrell, officiating, assisted by Rev. Cecil Brown, pastor of the Christian Church and the Rev. A. L. Benton of Kerr. Burial was in the Wayne Memorial Park on Highway 117 near Mount Olive.

Among those attending the funeral from this county were, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Haislip, Messrs. Robert and George Haislip, Mrs. Jos. Haislip, Mr. and Mrs. McLawhorn and the Rev. Olin Fox.

### Condition Improved After Treatment In Hospital

His condition somewhat improved following treatment in Duke Hospital during the past several weeks, Mr. George C. Griffin returned to his home in Griffins Township Sunday. He was accompanied home by his daughter, Mrs. Milton James, and Mr. James.

## Eight Accidents On County Roads During Week-end

### No One Reported Injured, But Property Damage Estimated at \$1,425

Personal property was badly battered but motorists were unusually considerate of life and limb when they wrecked seven vehicles. Five cars, forming part of a funeral procession, were involved in one accident report. The record of at least one accident a week was maintained on the Poplar Point loop, Patrolmen saying the road had not been free of wrecks for a single week since it was paved some weeks ago.

The first in the series was reported on Highway 125 just outside of Williamston last Wednesday when Jos. Miller Hopevell backed his 1951 Ford into the highway and was hit by a truck driven by George Walter Brown of Berkeley, Virginia. Damage to the car was estimated at \$200 by Patrolman R. P. Naron who made the investigation. The truck was not damaged.

A funeral procession was moving on the old Greenville-Williamston Highway last Friday afternoon and suddenly came to a stop William McKinley Smith, driving a 1941 Chevrolet, stopped. Fate Little, driving a Kaiser just behind Smith, stopped but not until he struck the No. 1 car, doing little damage to Smith's car but about \$150 damage to his own. James Harry Bonds, driving a 1940 Chevrolet, plowed into Little's 1947 Kaiser, doing about \$100 to his car. Chas. Frank next in line, struck the Bonds car, but Frank's 1939 Chevrolet was not damaged. Charles Mack Highsmith, driving the No. 5 car, a 1940 Ford, plowed into the rear of Stokes' Chevrolet, doing about \$100 damage to his Ford. Patrolman R. P. Naron made the investigation.

Said to have been speeding on the Poplar Point loop, Alfred L. Anderson, Jr., of Bethel, went right on across the intersection in the Ballard Bridge Road and tore into an embankment, doing about \$200 damage to his 1950 Hudson. The accident happened about 7:30 Sunday evening, according to Patrolman R. P. Naron who made the investigation.

Patrolman B. W. Parker, running here and there with his tongue almost hanging out, reported five accidents from late Thursday night until Sunday (Continued on Page Eight)

## Archie Council Dies Near Here

Archie Council, retired farmer, died at the home of his son near Williamston Monday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. He had been in declining health following a stroke about four years ago. He partially recovered from that attack and was getting along very well until two weeks ago when he suffered a second stroke. His condition had been critical since that time.

The son of the late John and Armanda Taylor Council, he was born in the Hassell section of this county 71 years ago on July 11, 1880, and spent his early life there, later farming in Goose Nest Township before locating near Williamston a number of years ago. He farmed all his life and was a member of the Hassell Holness Church for a long time.

In early manhood he was married to Dora Williams who died in 1929. His second marriage was to Jennie Gardner who survives. Surviving besides his widow are three children by his first marriage, two sons, Jesse and William Council and a daughter, Mrs. Armanda Bowen, all of Williamston; a brother, Van Council, of Williamston; three sisters, Mrs. Minnie Garrett and Mrs. Caddie Williams, both of Norfolk, and Mrs. Jennie Briley of Republican, Bertie County, and eleven grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted at the late home on the old Williamston-Greenville Road Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

## Town To Apply To Courts For Relief Of Underpass Hazard

### County Schools To Close For Holidays December 20

The date for closing all Martin County schools for the Christmas holidays was changed this week by the regular meeting of the body. Instead of closing on Friday, December 21, as originally scheduled, the schools will close at noon on Thursday, December 20, it was announced. The date—Wednesday, January 2—for reopening the schools after the holiday season remains the same, meaning that one day is to be added to the term at the close of the schools next spring. It was pointed out that the earlier closing will meet with the approval of more than seven thousand youngsters who will worry later about the delayed closing of the schools next spring.

## Large Liquor Plant Destroyed In County

### Arrest Three Men And Get Quantity Of Illegal Liquor

#### Irving Lames, Lonnie Rogers and Chas. Smith Are Allowed Bond

Assisted by Special Agents Jack Gaskill and Moses Harshaw of Elizabeth City, county officers made one of the largest raids against the illicit liquor manufacturing business recorded in this area in some time. The raiders arrested three men, confiscated almost a barrel of white liquor and a pick-up truck, and poured out approximately two thousand gallons of beer or mash.

Going into Free Union Section of Jamesville Township early last Friday evening, the officers spotted the plant. Officers Cecil Bullock, Raymond Rawls and Roy Peel, equipped with a walkie-talkie, took a stand while the sheriff's car moved out of the territory, keeping in contact with the raiders by radio. The Alcohol Tax Unit officers reported later in the evening, and an all-night vigil was planned.

While the officers watched, James moved in equipment and materials on his 1949 pick-up truck, and the plant was made ready for operation in a very short time. Thinking possibly a wholesaler had planned a rendezvous with the manufacturers, the officers almost frozen, reported to the sheriff's car that the operators were completing their operations. The sheriff and the other officers, stationed three miles away in Washington County, moved in and the raid was timed. Two men escaped, one plunging into Welch's Creek. James, 28, and Chas. Smith, 28, were caught. Lonnie Rogers, 60, was arrested at his home when officers found ten gallons of liquor on his back porch and manufacturing equipment on his premises. One report stated he had figured in the operations during the night. The plant was hardly more than 250 yards from his home, and all traffic to and from the still moved through his yard.

The 100-gallon copper kettle and other manufacturing equipment were loaded on the truck and moved out. The truck was placed in storage in Elizabeth City (Continued on Page Eight)

### Local Man Improving Following An Attack

Suffering with a heart condition, Mr. Jimmy L. Harris, Woolard Furniture Company associate, was reported improving early today in a Rocky Mount hospital where he was carried following an attack suffered Sunday. He made the trip in a Biggs ambulance. Last reports from the hospital stated he would have to remain in bed at least four weeks.

### ROUND-UP

Seven persons were placed in the county jail during the past week-end round-up. Alleged drunken driver, numbered three in the group, the other four being charged with non-support, drunkenness, larceny and violating the liquor laws.

## Application Made For Tap To Sewer Line Out Of Town

### Contract Let For New Deep Well To Cost More Than \$13,000.00

After making every reasonable effort to have an apparent automotive and pedestrian traffic hazard relieved at that spot where the railroad crosses over Highway 64 and meeting with no success, the local town board of commissioners in regular session last evening passed a resolution, directing the town attorney to go into the courts for relief. The action was taken following repeated requests by interested citizens to have the hazard remedied, and after the county boards of education and commissioners had gone on record as favoring action, looking toward the construction of a new railroad bridge across the route. The town board's action last night is supported by lengthy petitions presented by the various civic organizations in the community and signed by hundreds of citizens.

The resolution unanimously adopted by the town officials last evening, reads: "Be it resolved that: "Whereas there exists in the town of Williamston an extreme hazard to automotive and pedestrian traffic at the place where U. S. Highway 64 passes under the trestle of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad; and, whereas more than a prudent and reasonable effort has been made by the town officials to obtain action by the railroad company and the North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission whereby the hazard will be alleviated; and, whereas on the 20th day of September, 1951, there occurred at the place a serious school bus accident in which several children were injured, one of them critically; and, whereas it is believed that if the underpass had been in proper and up-to-date condition the accident would not have happened; and, whereas it is evident that the underpass is clearly not in keeping with road conditions of this State with respect to safety policies; and, whereas numerous petitions have been filed with this board, demanding that action in this connection be obtained; and, whereas the Parent-Teacher Association of Williamston, all the town's civic organizations, the county board of education and the Martin County Board of Commissioners have passed resolutions, demanding that some action by the railroad and State Highway and Public Works Commission be obtained; and, whereas there is a very large volume of vehicular traffic, including five school buses, and a large volume of pedestrian traffic; and, whereas, it is feared by this board that (Continued on Page Eight)

## Bread Sale Here Very Successful

The bread sale handled by the local Woman's Club Sunday afternoon was very successful, according to a preliminary report released yesterday by Mrs. W. O. Abbitt.

Approximately 500 loaves of bread were exchanged for donations, the club realizing almost \$300 from the project. Mrs. Abbitt said that \$275 had been reported to the treasurer, that a few responses to call were expected shortly.

In reality, the sale was not really a sale, but a token of appreciation in return for a contribution to a fund the club is advancing for the local elementary school. More than 1,000 books are needed in the school library and the club is working to raise approximately \$1,500 to finance the library needs.

The club leaders extend thanks to all those who, in any way, aided the undertaking.