

Recommend Adding Mileage To System

County Board In Regular Meeting Monday Morning

Arrangements Made For Vaccinating All Dogs In This County

Meeting in regular session Monday morning, the Martin County Board of Commissioners discussed a varied business calendar, but limited final action to routine matters and the recommendation of adding more mileage to the State system for maintenance in this county. Working right on through the lunch hour, the meeting recessed subject to the call of the chairman later in the month with the certainty that the commissioners will meet as a board of equalization and review on Monday, March 17.

Petitioners, supported by a goodly number of signatures asked that the following roads be added to the State highway system for maintenance:

A road in Bear Grass Township, leading off the Sweet Home Church road, near Mrs. Estelle Harris' and running four-tenths of a mile in a westward direction to the residence of Bonnie Taylor. It was pointed out that the road serves three families, that there are eight school children there.

A road in Cross Roads Township, leading off the Robersonville-Cross Roads road at Vernon Phelps' and running eastwardly one-tenth of a mile to the S. T. Wynne residence. The road serves two families.

A road in Bear Grass Township, leading from Sweet Home Church near the E. G. Davis home and running south five-tenths of a mile to Jack Taylor's, serving three families.

A road in Bear Grass Township, leading off the Cowen Road at residence of Roy Harrison's and running westwardly one mile to

(Continued on Page Eight)

Explorer Scout Patrol Planned

An Explorer Scout Patrol will be established here by the local Kiwanis Club to supplement Scout Troop No. 27 which is already sponsored by the club. R. P. Monteith, boys and girls work committee chairman of the Kiwanis Club, stated that the new unit should serve to stimulate greater interest in scouting because of better age grouping. Ernest Carraway will serve as scoutmaster of Troop 27 which will be made up of boys in the 11 through 13 age group while Thurman Matthews will direct the activities of the explorer unit which will be made up of boys above thirteen years of age.

All boys within the named age groups who are interested in scouting activities are urged to contact either of the named scoutmasters for further information.

ROUND-UP

Alleged law violators went on a rampage in this county last week, the records showing that seventeen were rounded up and jailed, and that possibly a dozen others arranged bond without going to jail. It was estimated that more than a dozen persons were booked for drunken driving during the period.

Of the seventeen arrested and jailed, four were charged with drunken driving, three each for assault and drunkenness, and one each for breaking and entering, hit-and-run driving, disorderly conduct, arson, carrying a concealed weapon and speeding. A seventeenth one was brought in for violating a court order. Seven were white and the ages of the group ranged from 21 to 62 years.

CONSIDERING

Explaining he had reached no definite decision, Mr. A. Corey, Jamestown man, said yesterday that he was considering entering the May primary for a seat in the North Carolina State House of Representatives from this county. "At least forty friends have asked me to consider entering the primary," Mr. Corey said, adding that he would make a definite decision and follow it with an announcement within the next few days.

Five Minor Auto Wrecks In County During Week-end

No One Hurt And Little Property Loss Reported By Highway Patrol

A preliminary report released yesterday by members of the Highway Patrol listed five minor vehicle accidents on the highways in this county during the past week-end. No one was hurt and property damage was limited to about \$650, according to estimates released by the patrol members.

The first in the series was reported a few miles out of Williamston on Highway 125 early last Saturday morning when a driver lost control of his 1950 Ford, skidded off the road and into a tree, causing about \$50 damage to his machine.

About 3:00 o'clock Sunday morning Alfonzo Ewell, driving a 1949 Chevrolet, was towing James Sheppard's broke down 1939 Chevrolet on Highway 903 about a mile north of Robersonville when Lester R. Meeks crashed into the Sheppard car, and knocked it into Ewell's Chevrolet. Damage to each of the Chevrolets was estimated at \$50 while the damage to Meeks' 1950 Pontiac will approximate \$100, according to Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation.

Driving toward Robersonville, about 6:50 p. m. Sunday, James Slade of Williamston stopped his 1946 pick-up truck with two wheels off the hardsurface on Highway 64 about a mile west of Everetts when the steering gear came loose. It was raining at the time, and Vance Roberson did not see the truck in time to avoid striking it in the rear with his 1951 Cadillac. Investigating the accident, Patrolman B. W. Parker estimated the damage to the car at \$50 and none to the truck.

Driving toward Oak City on the new Hassell-Oak City road in his 1939 Chevrolet, Eddie Johnson of RFD 1, Oak City, crashed into Whit Briley's 1941 Ford. Briley was driving toward Hassell, and was said to have been on his right side of the road. Patrolman R. P. Naron, investigating the accident, estimated the damage to the Johnson car at \$150 and that to the Ford at \$200. Johnson was detained, and released Monday in

(Continued on Page Eight)

W. Henry Rodgers Dies In the County

William Henry Rodgers, well-known and highly respected colored citizen died at his home near here last Thursday, February 28th.

He was 76 years old, born December 20, 1876, son of the late Jim and Clemmie Rodgers, also of Martin County. Rodgers joined the Cedar Hill Baptist Church in 1931, while the late Rev. J. A. McNair was pastor of the church. Surviving are his widow Mary Jane Rodgers; one daughter, Clemmie Biggs; and six sons, Arthur, John, Robert, Williams, Levi and Ulysses Rodgers, all of Williamston; four sisters, and two brothers.

Funeral services were held Sunday from the Cedar Hill Baptist Church.

Captain Sessoms Dies In Hospital Following Stroke

Prisoner Served the Officer In Every Way Possible During Emergency

Captain Arthur Henry Sessoms, popular head of the North Carolina Highway and Public Works Commission camp near Williamston, died in a local hospital at 11:00 o'clock last Friday night after an illness of only a few hours. Suffering a stroke while on a field trip shortly before noon that day, he lapsed into unconsciousness a short time later and little hope was held for his recovery.

When a prisoner, Charlie Razor, received information that everyone but a small member of his family was confined to their beds by illness, Captain Sessoms, with permission, carried him to the home near Robersonville. Razor was chopping wood in the yard when he noticed the officer was perspiring freely. Before he could do anything for him, Captain Sessoms fell over. Razor caught and carried him into his home, ran to a neighbor's home for aspirin and then made ready to take him home. Snatching clothing from the beds where members of his family lay ill, Razor made a mattress with blankets in the prison truck, covered the blankets with a sheet and placed the officer in the truck, covering him with another sheet and more blankets. While en route to Williamston, they met members of the highway patrol who helped get the captain to his home and later to the hospital. Charlie, during the meantime, was handling little jobs about the home and rendering every aid possible.

Captain Sessoms was born near Rockingham in Richmond County 57 years ago on December 15, 1894. He spent his early life on the farm there, entering the armed forces and serving as a sergeant in World War I. Following the war, he located in Wake County and was employed by the Durham and Southern Railroad until 1935 when he went with the prison department in Raleigh. He was later transferred to the Edgecombe camp where he served as steward, moving to Williamston in 1945 and building a home not far from the camp. He was promoted to captain last October. He maintained a good camp and held the respect of the prisoners, employees and the general public. He was friendly and accommodating and made many friends during his stay here.

He was first married to Vashiti Newcome and three sons, Jimmy Sessoms, USN, stationed in Jacksonville, Fla., Ernest Sessoms of Klamath Falls, Oregon, and Thomas Sessoms of Roxboro, survive that union. Other survivors are his widow, the former Miss Janie Bell Overman of Nash County; a daughter, Velba Susan Sessoms, of the home; three brothers, Willis Sessoms of Bennettsville, S. C., Hoyt Sessoms of Laurel Hill, N. C., and Clifton Sessoms, U. S. Army, stationed in Alaska; four sisters, Mrs. Ethel Driggers, Mrs. Vella Wallace and Mrs. Mae Sessoms, all of Laurel Hill, and Mrs. Woolard Watson of Rockingham, and his mother, of Laurel Hill.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Sunday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock by the Rev. J. N. Stancil of Rocky Mount, assisted by the Rev. Thad Ashley, former local minister now of Durham. Interment was in the Overman plot in the Bailey Cemetery, Nash County.

Candidate Makes Tour Of Section

Roy Rowe, candidate for Lieutenant Governor, State of North Carolina, was in town last Friday visiting friends and potential supporters in the May primary. Mr. Rowe said he was a farmer, business man and experienced legislator. He was born near Burgaw, Pender County. Attended public schools and was graduated from Farm Life School, Vanceboro. He also attended the University of North Carolina and is now a member of its board of trustees.

Red Cross Fund Drive Now In Full Swing In Chapter

The canvassing organization is being completed in its entirety today, and the annual Red Cross Fund Drive is expected to move into full swing tomorrow in this, the Martin County Chapter, Fund Chairman W. Iverson Skinner announced today.

Preliminary reports show that the drive is already making splendid progress in Williamston, that business firms have already contributed almost \$1,000 with about forty percent reported to date. Mrs. W. H. Carstarphen is calling for volunteers for a canvass of the residential sections, and Chairman Skinner is encouraged by the response received locally and in the other four townships in the county. The colored citizens are also going into action, and if the drive can maintain its present momentum, the quota is assured. Mr. Skinner declared, adding that hard work will be necessary, however.

RAINFALL

After holding to a figure considerably below normal, the rainfall during recent days is believed to be heading toward a surplus in this area. During the eight-day period ending this morning, nearly six inches of rain fell in this section, according to Bridgekeeper Hugh Spruill.

Since the first of this month 2.38 inches of rain fell here, including 1.76 inches recorded during the 24-hour period ending at 8:00 o'clock this morning. Since February 1 and through last night, exactly eight inches of rain were recorded here, the total being the greatest for any similar period since 1935.

Pleads Guilty; Found Not Guilty

Charged with assaulting his wife, William Gray, 62-year-old man, pleaded guilty when arraigned in the county court Monday.

The victim, Mary Gray, said her husband choked her, but did not strike her. She added that he had been drinking. During the course of the examination, the prosecuting witness, intentionally or unintentionally, said she hit him in the head before he choked her.

At the conclusion of her evidence, the State rested. Gray said he had no questions and that he did not want to take the stand. Asked if he still wanted to plead guilty, he answered in the affirmative. Judge R. T. Johnson pondered the evidence a minute or so and declared the defendant not guilty.

Man Is Painfully Cut In The Face

James Godard, colored man of the Spring Green community, was painfully cut on the face at Duck Inn on Washington Street here last Saturday night. But few details could be learned immediately.

At a hearing held before Justice Chas. R. Mobley last evening Floyd Lanier, although positively denied by Godard as his attacker, denied the charge. Godard said he suffered a ten-stitch cut on his face.

Lanier, booked for trial in the county court next Monday, was required to give bond in the sum of \$100.

Chesson Member Of Police Force

Thomas Chesson, local young man and son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Chesson of Robersonville, entered upon his new duties as a member of the police force here last Friday.

He succeeded Wilson Wiggins who ably served as a patrolman on the night shift for several months. Wiggins resigned to enter the merchant marine service.

Mrs. J. Eason Lilley is again heading the drive in Griffins where the citizens are asked to contribute \$250. Mrs. Lilley has led the way for the Red Cross there for years and is promising to again do her best. LeRoy Harrison is heading the drive in Bear Grass where the citizens are asked to contribute \$250 to the fund. Mr. Harrison is lining up his assistants and Mr. Skinner is pleased with the prospects there. Mrs. Irving Roberson who with Mrs. Grady Godard handled the work in Williams last year, is completing plans for the drive there. Despite other duties, Mrs. Roberson feels confident the \$75 quota for Williams can be met. Mrs. C. A. Askew and Mrs. P. C. Blount, Jr., are heading the drive in Jamesville, and Mr. Skinner is optimistic over the prospects for raising \$300 in their township without delay.

Edward C. Spruill Dies In Hospital

Edward Clinton Spruill, son of Mrs. E. R. Spruill and brother of Mrs. D. V. Clayton of Williams-ton, died in an Ahoskie hospital at 4:30 o'clock yesterday morning after a long period of declining health. His condition had been critical following an operation several weeks ago.

Mr. Spruill was born in Washington County 56 years ago and spent his early life there, locating 35 years ago in Windsor where he farmed and operated a dairy.

Surviving besides his mother and sister here are his widow; a daughter, Mrs. Alvin Jackson James of Elizabeth City; two brothers, Henry W. Spruill of Aulander and James Spruill of Roper.

He was a member of the Cashie Baptist Church and his pastor, the Rev. W. I. Johnson, is conducting the funeral at the home this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Interment will be in Windsor's Edgewood Cemetery.

Robbers Entered Oak City Store

Knocking out a back door panel and slipping out the cross bar, robbers entered the general merchandise store of Harry Daniel's in Oak City early last Sunday night. The money drawers were searched, but Mr. Daniel said he left little money there when he closed the store Saturday night. No goods were missed, Deputy Raymond Rawls quoted Mr. Daniel as saying.

The owner went to the store between 10 and 10:30 o'clock Sunday night and found the back door open. He went for help, and it is believed that the robbers ran away while he was gone. A search of the store was made a short time later and apparently none of the merchandise had been touched. The sheriff's office is investigating.

Firemen Called To Rural Home Early Last Evening

Fire, starting from a flu, did only slight damage to the Bud Beacham home a few miles from here on the old Greenville road at 6:30 o'clock last evening. Firemen here were called out, but the family had the fire out soon after it started.

STILL LOW

Caused mainly by illness and aggravated by bad weather conditions, absences are still holding to a high figure in many of the schools in this county, according to unofficial information gained this morning.

While attendance figures are holding up fairly well in some of the schools, considering the bad weather, absences are running twenty percent or more in others, it was learned. However, nothing has been said about declaring another holiday.

Delegations Seek An Extension Of Highway Route 13

Action Rests With Highway Association and Federal Bureau Of Roads

Hearing delegations from various sections of eastern North Carolina, the North Carolina Highway and Public Works Commission last Thursday in Raleigh explained that it was powerless to act in designating federal highway routes in North Carolina, but the proposal calling for the extension of Route 13 from its present terminus at Windsor via Williamston, Robersonville, Greenville, Kinston and on south to Marion, South Carolina, was accepted and is to be passed on to the Federal Bureau of Public Roads and the American Association State Highway Organization.

R. B. Nelson of Robersonville headed one delegation and James F. Chestnutt of Clinton headed a second one in the interest of Route 13.

Nelson's group reported it had resolutions from every town and county board along its route favoring the Kinston and Greenville course.

Chestnutt's group claimed its Goldsboro, Clinton and Tar Heel route was heavily supported.

The arguments were similar. Both delegations claimed the new route is needed to relieve congestion on US 17 and US 301, to serve important Eastern North Carolina communities and to provide a new link with Norfolk, Va., to the north and Marion, S. C., to the south.

Highway Commission officials told the delegations that US-numbered highways must be approved by the Federal Bureau of Public Roads and by the American Association of State Highway Officials. These two agencies, the Commission added, have strict standards and hesitate to give a US number to a route which duplicates an existing US route.

Highway Chairman Henry Jordan also pointed out that eventually US 301 may be completely rebuilt and a portion of it relocated.

US 301 is a part of the nation's inter-regional highway system, Jordan explained, and as such is considered important and strategic by the Federal Bureau of Public Roads. If and when US 301 is rebuilt, he said, the Bureau of Public Roads will insist that it touch Fayetteville and connect with the Santee-Cooper bridge in South Carolina. Thus, he added, the new US 301 would serve most of the areas proposed for US 13.

Representatives, favoring the extension of the route, were in Raleigh for the meeting from Windsor, Robersonville, Stokes, Greenville, Ayden, Grainger, Kinston, Pink Hill, Beulaville, Wallace, Elizabethtown, Lumberton, White Lake, Winton, Winterville, Ayden and Fairmont.

The two delegations, while advancing the same argument in support of the new route, were not unanimous on just which towns the new route should serve. The Nelson group proposed routing it from Robersonville via Stokes to Greenville and on through Kinston. The other delegation proposed routing it from

(Continued on Page Eight)

Open House Here For Cafe Opening

Closed for about two weeks while the building was enlarged and renovated, Griffins Quick Lunch will reopen for business Wednesday evening at 6:00 o'clock, it was announced today by Manager George Griffin, Jr.

During the past two weeks, a large force of workers headed by S. C. Griffin and Dalmer G. Manning, added a large dining room, kitchen and store room and remodeled the old part of the popular cafe. New equipment is being installed and preparations are being rushed for the reopening tomorrow evening.

Open house will be observed, beginning at 6:00 o'clock when barbecue sandwiches and soft drinks will be served. The public is invited to inspect the cafe and enjoy eats and drinks on the house.

Appeal For Remedy Of Traffic Condition

DAMAGED

While farmers are not too discouraged, it is fairly certain that recent rains have damaged and possibly drowned many tobacco plants in this section.

Falling slowly, for the most part, the rains have soaked into the ground, literally saturating the earth and covering the ground in many places. Farmers, whose plant beds are in low places, say the plants are turning yellow and that many are disappearing.

Lloyde E. Waters Died Monday At Jamesville Home

Funeral Service Will Be Held There Wednesday At 2:00 O'Clock

Lloyde Franklin Waters, retired farmer-business man and highly respected citizen of Jamesville, died at his home there Monday morning at 12:45 o'clock. He had been in declining health for several years, but was active until about eighteen months ago when he had a leg amputated. Since that time he had been confined to his home most of the time, and although his condition was serious over the months, it was not considered grave until about ten days ago.

Mr. Waters, son of the late Joseph B. and Alethia Waters, was born in Jamesville Township 71 years ago on September 28, 1880. After spending nearly all his life on the farm he moved to Jamesville and engaged in business until his health failed, forcing his retirement. He was a devoted member of the Corinth Free Will Baptist Church, a thoughtful neighbor and helpful friend.

He was married to Miss Fannie Jenkins of Bethel forty-six years ago.

Surviving besides Mrs. Waters, are a son, J. Larry Waters, of Savannah, Ga.; two brothers, E. G. and Warren W. Waters of Jamesville; four sisters, Mrs. J. B. Hardee of Greenville, Mrs. Harvey Wheeler and Mrs. Duron Harrison of Roanoke Rapids and Mrs. Danie Alligood of Palmyra; six grandchildren, Guy Randolph Waters of Keesler Field, AFB, Boloxi, Miss., Dorothy, Jacquelyn and Rachel Waters of Jamesville, Mrs. Kader Bass of Colerain, and Joe Waters of Savannah, several nieces and nephews. A son, Guy R. Waters, preceded him in death.

Funeral services will be conducted at the home in Jamesville Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock by the Rev. D. W. Alexander of Bethel, assisted by the Rev. W. B. Harrington, Baptist minister. Burial will be in Williamston's Woodlawn Cemetery.

Carolina Installs 100,000th 'Phone

A significant milestone in the telephone progress of eastern North Carolina was reached on Friday, February 29, when the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company placed its 100,000th telephone in service.

Installation of the 100,000th telephone was made in the home of Mr. J. R. Ellen, a farmer of the Dortches section, near Rocky Mount. The service was installed at about 11:30 on Friday morning at the Ellen home where a group of interested spectators, including friends of the Ellen family, visitors from nearby Rocky Mount and representatives and guests of the Telephone Company, had assembled.

The Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, which operates in 41 counties of eastern North Carolina, had about 49,700 telephones in service at the end of 1945. Since that time, the company has more than doubled the number of telephones in the area it serves.

Tender Petitions To Town Board At Regular Meeting

Town Will Have Day In The Courts March 20 About Street Underpass

Receiving no relief in direct appeals, Williamston's town board of commissioners will go into the courts on March 20 at 11:00 o'clock a. m. in search of a remedy for the dangerous traffic hazard existing on West Main Street where the tracks of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad cross over the highway or street. An order has been signed by Judge Paul Frizzelle, directing the North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission and the railroad company to appear in court at that time and show cause why the relief asked should not be granted. (The complaint in detail is to be published later).

Very little business was on the calendar for discussion at the regular monthly meeting of the board last night, but the commissioners were literally swamped with petitions for paving of one kind or another. A petition, properly signed, was submitted for the paving of Sycamore Street from Main to Washington by the water plant. The petition did not mention curb and gutter, and it was sent back to petitioners for correction.

In addition to the Sycamore Street petition, there are others, requesting curb and gutter or curb and gutter plus street surfacing on School Drive, one block on North Biggs, one block on Biggs between Halifax Street and Simmons Avenue, Lee Street, Jackson Street, Ray Street and Woodlawn Drive.

The town appropriated \$250 to help finance the midget baseball league.

A petition was received, calling for sewer and water lines on Biggs Street between Ray and Beech.

Treasurer Marion Cobb reported \$63,851.01 cash in banks, including \$14,723.51 in the street paving fund and \$9,855.66 in the sewer rental fund. The parking meter revenue last month amounted to \$627.97, and sewer rentals for the period amounted to \$746.50. All but \$17,076.48 of the \$91,576.60 tax levy for 1951 has been collected, the treasurer reported.

The purchase of a ditch digger was discussed, but no definite action was taken. It was explained that a new model, costing approximately \$16,000, is on the market. It is to be examined, but no decision is expected before next month.

Suffers Injury In Fall Near Here Last Sunday

Peggy Ann, young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Carter of Portsmouth, suffered a bad cut on her left leg in a fall while playing in the yard of the John Nicholas' here Sunday afternoon. One report said she fell off or against a car parked in the yard.

Following treatment in a local hospital she was able to return to her home.

FINAL REPORT

In a final report released this week, C. E. Mangum and J. A. Edens stated that \$3,823.80 was raised for the infantile paralysis fund during the recent drive in this county, the amount falling considerably behind the total raised last year. Expenses, including postage mainly, amounted to \$147.80, leaving a net amount of \$3,676.00.

Making the report, the chairman said that Williamston's colored school raised \$327.72, and that the Bear Grass school contributed \$140.00 to the fund.