

Funeral Saturday At The Home For J. Lawrence Peele

Well-Known Local Business Man Died Early Last Friday Morning

Jesse Lawrence Peele, well-known local business man, died at his old home in Bear Grass Township at 5:20 o'clock last Friday morning following a long period of declining health. Suffering a stroke about eighteen months ago, he partially recovered and was able to be out until a few weeks ago. His condition had been critical following a stroke suffered week before last.

Mr. Peele was born in Bear Grass Township 69 years ago, the son of the late Jesse P. and Martha Godwin Peele. After spending his early life on the farm, he came to Williamston in the early nineteen hundreds and was associated with his brother, the late Herbert D. Peele, in the jewelry business for a number of years. In early manhood he was married to Miss Lottie Bullock of Suffolk and engaged in business there for about a year and traveled as a salesman in Virginia and other states for a short time before returning to open a jewelry business of his own. Forced to retire on account of declining health, he later sold his business and returned to his boyhood home.

Mr. Peele was a natural salesman and one who enjoyed life to the fullest. He lived by his politics and was without doubt one of the late President Roosevelt's greatest admirers.

A few years ago he was married to Mrs. Lillian Yancey Buchanan, formerly of Granville County. He was a member of the Baptist Church.

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Reviews Work Of Local Guardsmen

Captain E. S. Peele, Jr. was guest speaker at the Kiwanis Club meeting held here last Thursday night. Captain Peele's talk included a brief resume of the accomplishments of the local National Guard Unit since it entered Federal Service on May 6, 1951.

He highly praised the fine work of the enlisted men as well as the officers. Continuing, he stated that the town and county should be justly proud of their boys because, as the records show, the local unit started from scratch and is now rated as one of the better batteries in the battalion.

Captain Peel, who is now detached from the local unit for a tour of duty in Korea, concluded his remarks with an appeal—that the unit be remembered "as individuals" upon their release from active Federal Service.

In a brief business session the Club, with the exception of a sole "Nay" voiced by Bill Spivey, unanimously elected the dissenting voter to be manager of the Kiwanis entry in the local Little League baseball organization. Realizing that he was caught in the draft (baseball version), Spivey accepted the assignment and named Bob Newell and Vernon Bunting to serve with him as official coaches.

President Reg Simpson will appoint a Little League Committee to work with Manager Spivey and his coaches on or before the next meeting.

Guests of the Club at the meeting included J. S. McFall, introduced by R. P. Monteith, and Tom Brandon, Jr., introduced by Bob Newell.

Driving Tests For High School Students Friday

Safety engineers, representing an insurance company, will give a series of driving tests at the local high school next Friday morning at 8:30 o'clock as an added feature to a safety lecture and special movie.

Directing the tests, W. W. Morris is bringing special equipment for the tests which will check stopping distances and other driver reactions. The public is invited.

Exceed Bloodmobile Quota At Center Here On Friday

The Tidewater Regional Blood Bank representatives collected 174 pints of blood at the station maintained in the Methodist Church educational building here last Friday, the collection exceeding the 150-pint quota by 24 pints. The collection reflected thorough work by the Red Cross Chapter recruiters, J. Paul Simpson and Bruce Wynne, who hastened to explain that volunteers from outside the immediate chapter greatly helped in carrying the undertaking over the top. One donor drove in all the way from Craven County to give a pint and help the cause along.

Quite a few of the donors last Friday were repeaters, many of them keeping an appointment with the bloodmobile on each of

its four visits to date. Most of those in the canteen were old hands, too, all of them offering a willing hand to maintain the program in this chapter.

Reports from the station said that operations ran smoothly, that 198 volunteers showed up. There were 24 rejections, the doctors advising against the donations when it was learned that the volunteers had been ill or had colds. About a dozen cancelled their appointments for various reasons and about an equal number failed to report as planned.

The bloodmobile is scheduled to make its next trip to the chapter in June. During the meantime, those who can and will help the program, are asked to volunteer with Recruiters Simpson and Wynne.

Arrest Seventeen In Enforcement Raids

DELAYED

Civil proceedings, continued last Thursday until yesterday, were again delayed in the Martin County Superior Court when Judge J. Paul Frizzelle of Snow Hill advised the clerk that illness was keeping him at home until tomorrow, at least. There is some doubt if the jurist's health will permit him to return tomorrow. He wasn't feeling at all well when he presided over the trial of criminal cases here last week.

The calendar has been moved up with those cases set for trial last Thursday tentatively scheduled for hearing tomorrow, including a hearing in the Jamesville election case at 2:30 o'clock.

After appealing to Judge J. Paul Frizzelle in the superior court here last Thursday morning to strike out as irrelevant much of the wording in the complaint filed by the town of Williamston in its case against the A. C. L. Railroad Company and the State Highway Commission, attorneys for the Coast Line, batting the problem occasioned by an outmoded and extremely dangerous highway underpass back to the highway commissioner, filed the following brief:

The complaint alleges that U. S. Highway 64, constituting the Main Street of Williamston, passes under the track of the defendant Railroad Company within plaintiff's corporate limits. It alleges "that about seventeen years ago,

Coast Line Files Brief In Stubborn Underpass Action

Stiff Opposition To Town's Petition For Improved Rail Underpass

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Young Boy Dies Of Heart Attack

Alfred Ormond, 16-year-old colored boy, died suddenly of a heart attack at his mother's home on Martin Street here yesterday morning. Getting up about 6:30 o'clock, the boy complained of having a severe headache, and the mother stepped out to get some medicine to rub it when she heard him fall. He died a few minutes later.

Handicapped by a deformity of the back, the boy asked no favors and held his own, complaining occasionally of headaches but working along with others. He "butchered" papers for The Enterprise for some time.

He was a son of Goldie and Carrie Purvis Ormond. Funeral arrangements had not been completed early today.

Mrs. W. R. Banks Died In Hospital Here On Saturday

Funeral Service Conducted In Methodist Church Yesterday Morning

Mrs. Vivian Smith Banks, well-known local citizen, died in a hospital here last Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock following an illness of only a few hours. News of her sudden death came as a distinct shock to her many friends here and throughout the community.

A daughter of the late Howard and Vivian Iola Strong Smith, she was born in Richmond 39 years ago on February 10, 1913, but spent most of her early life in Lynchburg. She attended and was graduated from Kings Daughters' Hospital School of Nursing in Portsmouth and was married in 1937 to William R. Banks of Hertford. After making her home in Norfolk for about one year, she moved to Williamston in 1938, making her home here since that time.

During her stay here she nursed the sick whenever it was possible for her to do so, and she was active in the activities of the Methodist church, making many lasting friendships among all groups.

Surviving besides her husband are two sons, Charles M. and Walter E. Banks; two daughters, Vivian Virginia and Bernice Iola Banks, the latter just three days old; two stepdaughters, Mrs. Howard A. Thomas of Jacksonville, Fla., and Mrs. Garland Eure of Hertford; two brothers, Charles William Smith of Richmond and Howard Edward Smith of Baltimore, and one sister, Mrs. Bernice Coleman, of Lynchburg.

The funeral service was conducted in the local Methodist Church yesterday morning at 11:00 o'clock by the pastor, the Rev. R. E. Walston. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Four Accidents On County Roads During Week-end

Four Persons Reported To Have Been Injured, Two Believed Badly

After traveling through most of the week-end without serious trouble, motorists on Martin County highways started piling up the wrecks Sunday and Monday. A preliminary report released late last night by members of the highway patrol listing four accidents on the highways and another on a town street with at least four injured, two of them possibly badly.

Monday afternoon at 1:20 o'clock S. A. Roberson, Williams-town man associated with the fed-

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Glee Club Will Be Guest Choir

The Glee Club of Williamston High School which recently won a Superior rating at the music festival and contest at Greenville, will be the guest choir for the service of Evening Prayer at the Episcopal Church of the Advent at eight o'clock Wednesday night.

The announcement was made by the Rector, the Rev. Thomas Hastings, who also cordially invited the public. Miss Ann Royster is director of the Glee Club.

ROUND-UP

Thirteen persons were placed in the county jail last week-end, several of them going there to await transfer to prison and road camps.

Four were booked for robbery and four others for public drunkenness, two for assaults, and one each for violating parole, larceny and drunken driving.

Four of those jailed were white and the ages of the group ranged from 17 to 57 years.

Lengthy Briefs Filed In Case Against Highway And Railroad

Manufacturing Company To Locate In Robersonville

Completing final business arrangements over the week-end, officials of a nationally known dress manufacturing company of New York City announced their plans for establishing a plant in Robersonville, and stated that operations were expected to begin on or about April 25.

A five year lease was signed last Friday by Mr. Lewis Lux, secretary-treasurer of the company, for the A. E. Smith and

Wilson buildings on Railroad Street. The plant, to be known as The Martin Manufacturing Company, will manufacture cotton dresses, robes and other ladies' wearing apparel.

The plant will employ approximately 150 persons in its present quarters and will bring into Robersonville an estimated payroll of \$300,000 annually. Employment will expand to about 400 persons upon the completion of the addition.

End Criminal Case Trials On Friday In Superior Court

Four Prisoners Transferred To State Prison In Raleigh Friday

Struggling along with a rather complicated criminal docket for almost five days, the Martin County Superior Court folded its tent early last Friday afternoon for a breathing spell before tackling a long and weary civil calendar this week. The docket was not cleared of all its criminal cases, the court finding it necessary to continue quite a few even after running over into the time set aside for civil case trials.

Four prisoners were transferred to State's Prison in Raleigh and quite a few others were removed to road camps, leaving the jail empty once more.

Proceedings not previously reported: Henry Clay Jackson, pleading guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, was sentenced to prison for not less than five and not more than six years. His wife, Esther Mackey Jackson, found guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, was sentenced to prison for two years, the court suspending the prison term upon the payment of the costs. She is to live with her mother in Belhaven. Jackson fired four bullets into the chest of Roosevelt Mackey, the father of Jackson's wife, and almost killed him in Williamston on last December 23.

Charged with breaking and entering, Collins (Rudy) Smith, pleaded guilty of forcible trespass and was sentenced to the roads for twelve months. The court suspended the sentence upon the payment of \$25 for damage done to C. F. Joyner's property. He is to stay away from the Joyner premises and remain of good behavior for two years.

Charged with robbery, Henry Otis Williams entered a plea of nolo contendere to common law robbery, and was sentenced to the roads for eighteen months.

O. C. Brown, Charlie Brown and James Davis, charged with assault and robbery, entered pleas of nolo contendere to common law robbery, and was sentenced to the roads for eighteen months.

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District Church Meet In County

The Roanoke District Churches of Christ will convene with the Macedonia Church of Christ on March 29 and 30, it was announced by the Rev. P. E. Cayton, pastor of the host church. The theme chosen will be "The Local Church." Those participating will be B. F. Leggett, President, D. C. Gurkin, Secretary and J. S. Holiday, vice-president.

Services Saturday morning will be conducted by R. H. Walker. Saturday afternoon services will be conducted by G. C. Bland.

Sunday morning services will be under the direction of M. L. Ambrose and E. C. Alexander. In the afternoon the young people will hold their meeting.

Dinner will be served at the church on both days and the public is cordially invited to attend any or all of these services.

WOUNDED



Pfc. David A. Gurganus, wounded March 9 in action in Korea, has notified his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Gurganus of Williamston, that his injuries were in the leg and were slight. Although he continues in the hospital, he stated that it was nothing to worry about and that he was sure he would be out and back in the fighting lines at an early date.

J. P. House Died Suddenly at Home Monday Afternoon

Prominent Farmer Had Been In Declining Health For Several Years

John P. House, prominent county farmer and business man, died suddenly at his home near Robersonville Monday afternoon at 1:00 o'clock, the apparent victim of a heart attack. He had been in declining health for about two years. Last fall he suffered a second slight stroke, but was able to be out and continued fairly active until he was stricken suddenly and died a few minutes later at his home.

A son of the late Berry A. and Acca Phillips House, he was born fifty-seven years ago near Robersonville and farmed in the community all his life, until declining health forced his retirement. He was also associated with his late brother, Lee House, in the

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Says Town Should Widen Underpass

R. Brookes Peters, attorney for the N. C. State Highway and Public Works Commission, in a demurrer filed in the Martin County Superior Court last week, maintains that the Town of Williamston has no authority to sue the several state highway commissioners in its case against the Commission and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company.

The attorney went on to maintain that the complaint does not state a cause of action for that plaintiff has not shown that it is entitled to the relief demanded.

The defendant then pointed out that the town already has the authority to remedy the condition complained of, but has no right to bring the suit against the highway commissioners.

Town Files Brief In Case Against Highway - ACL

Maintains No Cause of Action Has Been Alleged As To The Railroad

After hearing the petition and answers in open court last Thursday for briefs in the case of Town of Williamston against the State Highway and Public Works Commission and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, Strong opposition is being expressed to the town's claim for a remedy of a traffic hazard and an improvement at the point where the highway crosses under the Coast Line track on West Main Street.

Representing the town, Attorney Chas. H. Manning filed the following brief with the court:

The plaintiff in this action is seeking an order whereby the defendant Railroad will be required to provide openings through its facility for sidewalks, and the State Highway Commission be required to correct the grade in the road and properly drain the site.

We say that the Highway Commission is responsible for what we seek to require of them by reason of The famed Powell Bill—Chapter 260, as amended by Chapter 948, Session Laws of 1951—Section 1—"From and after July 1, 1951, all streets within municipalities which now or hereafter may form a part of the State Highway System shall be maintained, repaired, improved, widened, constructed and reconstructed by the State Highway and Public Works Commission, to the extent and in the same manner as is done on roads and highways of like nature outside the corporate limits and the costs of such activities shall be paid from the State Highway and Public Works Fund.

It is our contention that "shall be" is a law of the legislature amounting to a command, and a failure to comply with the command is a violation of the law. We also contend that the section says in effect that it shall be done properly and in keeping with what is good and safe for the citizens of this state. This, the commission has failed to do.

If the duty exists as set out above, the next question is: Can the Town force performance?

A municipality is responsible for the safety of its citizens and also its visitors. It is possessed of Police Powers whereby this protection can be given. It is an obligation of a town, and if same were not exercised we would soon have a breakdown in our civilization. In this case there has been an avalanche of petitions and resolutions, as well as delegations, demanding the safety to which the public is entitled. If the town cannot then turn to the defendant, the commission has failed to do.

Book Youths On Larceny Charge

Four boys and a girl, their ages ranging from 15 to 22 years, were booked for larceny by Justice H. S. Everett at a preliminary hearing held in Robersonville last Friday evening. The defendants, Elton Taylor, J. D. Moore, Joseph Green, Lewis Leggett and Maggie Lee Wynne, were placed under \$150 bond each, but Taylor, a previously suspended sentence revoked by the courts earlier in the week, was returned to jail.

The five are alleged to have stolen five bags of corn, two bags of chickens, a bushel of sweet potatoes and three quarts of oil from the Robersonville Packing Company shed the Friday before. According to Deputy Raymond Rawls, who made the investigation along with the police, the corn was sold in Tarboro for \$16.30.

The cases are scheduled for trial in the county court next Monday.

Charles L. Smith Died In County's Jail On Monday

Fifty-five Years Old. Man Believed To Have Died Of Heart Attack

Charles Lafayette Smith, 55-year-old Robersonville Township farmer, was found dead in the Martin County jail shortly before 8:00 o'clock Monday morning. Following an investigation, Coroner W. W. Biggs said the man apparently died of a heart attack shortly after Sunday mid-night. Rigor mortis was well advanced when a jail companion, Elton Taylor, shook the body after receiving no answer to repeated calls.

Smith, awaiting transfer to a hospital for the mental ill, died in his sleep, Jailer Roy Peele stating that he thought the man was sleeping that he (Smith) had his hands resting on his chest, that the covers were in place and that there was no sign of struggle. The jailer delivered a soft drink to Smith about 8:00 o'clock Sunday evening and heard him talking and moving around later that night. His jail mate, Taylor, said Smith got up about 11:00 o'clock for a drink of water and smoked a cigarette, and retired without complaining of feeling ill.

Going to the jail about 7:30 o'clock Monday morning, the jailer said he left breakfast for the two inmates on a shelf, called them and started cleaning up the jail block. Neither Taylor, who was in the top bunk, nor Smith rallied to the breakfast call, and the jailer, after looking into their bunks, thought the two prisoners were sleeping. Taylor said he got up soon after the jailer went out, ate his breakfast and then called Smith. Getting no answer, Taylor went back into the cell and found Smith dead. An urgent call was heard by the jailer who summoned a doctor and the coroner.

Confined with Smith since last Thursday Taylor said Smith did

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Russell Jones, 22 Killed By Train

Russell Jones, 22-year-old colored man, was fatally injured when he was struck by a west bound Atlantic Coast Line freight about one-half mile west of Everetts shortly after Friday mid-night.

Said to have been sitting on the end of a cross tie with his head in his hands, Jones had his left leg almost torn away above the knee and suffered double fractures of the skull. Picked up by a Biggs ambulance, the victim died a few minutes after reaching a local hospital at 2:00 o'clock. He never regained consciousness, reports stating that he had to be moved by stretcher some little distance down the tracks to the waiting ambulance.

Few details about the accident could be learned immediately. Coroner W. W. Biggs stated that the trainmen would be questioned this evening when they make their regular run to Plymouth. An inquest is planned later, the coroner said.

Jones, employed in Williamston, returned to Everetts late Friday night with Russell and John Griffin, Jr. They separated at a small store near Everetts and he cut across to the railroad, stopping at a friend's house along the way and telling him it was getting late and that he would see him the next day. It was thought the man was all right at that time.

The engineer stopped the train and had the man moved to the hospital.

Parole Revoked For Martin County Man

Sentenced in Edgecombe County for an assault with a deadly weapon and later paroled, Cary Whitehurst, Oak City man, was arrested and turned over to Probation Officer Gay last Saturday. Details could not be learned immediately, but Whitehurst, about 55, was said to have violated the terms of the parole, and is being returned to serve an additional four months.