

Retired Jeweler Takes Rat Poison To End His Life

Ronald Crawford Had Been In Declining Health For Some Time

Ronald C. Crawford, retired jeweler, died in a Williamston hospital at 11:50 o'clock last Thursday morning after drinking the greater part of a bottle of rat poison at his home in Gold Point earlier in the day. Investigating the death, Coroner W. W. Biggs said that while Crawford left no note nor offered a reason for the drastic act, the victim had been in declining health for some time, and it is believed that resulting despondency prompted suicide. The coroner added that all indications pointed to suicide and that

inquiries was completed Saturday.

According to the coroner, Crawford, finding it difficult to produce on account of physical disabilities, returned home a short time ago after working with a jewelry firm in Washington. Thursday morning when he did not leave his room, a son went there and found him in agonizing pain, the father finally explaining that he had drunk the poison possibly an hour or more earlier in the morning. Removed by ambulance to the hospital, Crawford was almost dead upon arrival, doctors stating that poison had spread to all the vital parts of his body, rendering antidotes useless.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Saturday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by the Rev. B. T. Cox, pastor of the Farmville Christian Church. Interment was in the Robersonville cemetery.

Mr. Crawford, 48, was born in Pitt County where he spent his early life before locating in this county a number of years ago.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Lillie Mae Powell Crawford; three sons, Gillette of Rocky Mount, Billy and C. L. of the home; a daughter, Peggy Jean Crawford of the home; a sister, Mrs. Susie Hudson of Norfolk, Va.; three half-brothers, Remus of near Robersonville, Jack and Leon of near Williamston.

Painfully Hurt In Home Accident

Mrs. J. Edward Corey was painfully burned and almost electrocuted at her home in Martin Heights last Friday when she accidentally struck a broken electric base.

She was painfully burned and her feet, on a damp floor, were scorched. When she reached her hand she was reeled over backward and the plug was snatched from the outlet. Had the circuit not been broken, the shock could have proved fatal, according to reports.

She is recovering rapidly and is able to be up now.

Firemen Called Out Early Friday Morning

Volunteer firemen were called out here at 2:30 o'clock last Friday morning when fire threatened a banana transport truck on the main street near the Central Service Station. The fire started in a refrigerating motor and burned on the grease on a large gas tank, but did not spread to the gas of the truck.

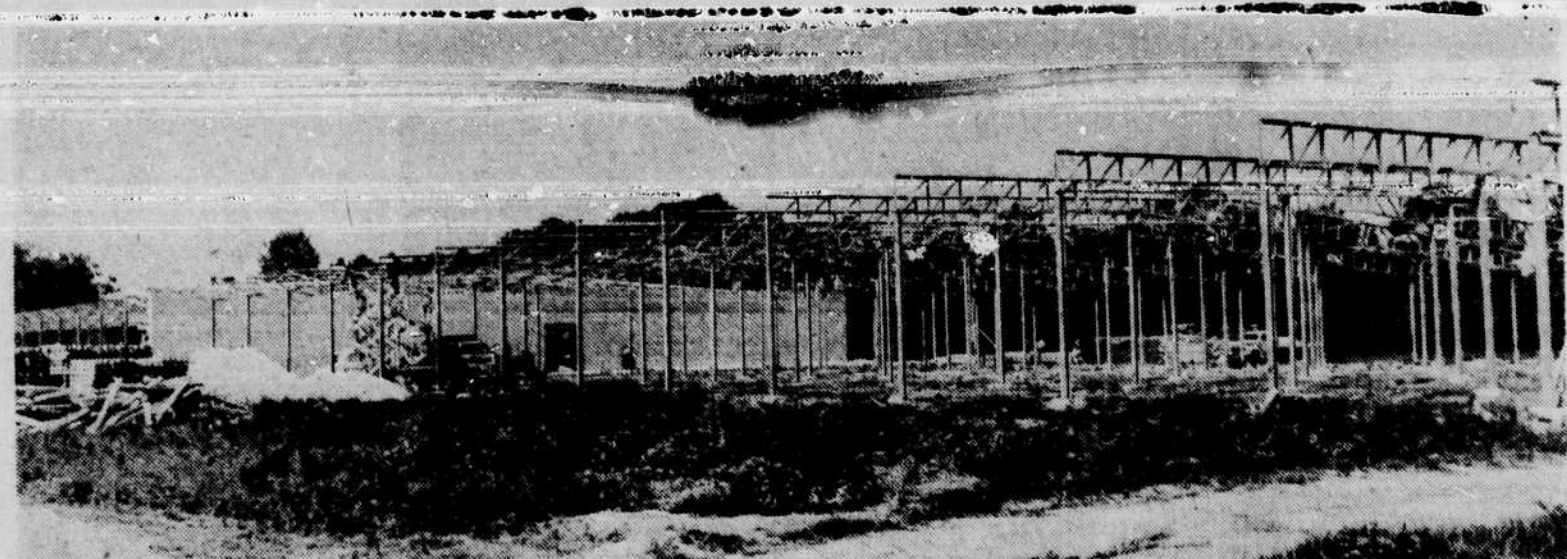
AUGUST 21

Tobacco sales will get under way on this and other eastern Carolina markets on Thursday, August 21, it was announced following a meeting of the board of governors of the Bright Belt Warehouse Association held in Raleigh last Friday. The markets opened the same date last year, the early prices averaging about \$52.00.

Georgia markets open July 21, followed by South Carolina on the 28th, and the Border markets on August 4.

Sales are to be limited to 2,000 piles per day with a maximum of 300 pounds per pile. The selling time will be five hours daily.

Storage For 10,000 Hogsheads Of Tobacco



Now under construction at the foot of Peel and Morrison Streets, just off Washington Street, the warehouse when completed will provide storage for ten thousand hogsheads of tobacco.

The brick wall is in the middle of the building, providing a fire-break. The storage house is being built by the Williamston Storage Company, W. I. Skinner, president.

Propose Saturday Sessions Of The Recorders Court

Saturday sessions of the Martin County Recorder's Court are being proposed, and the first Saturday meeting is scheduled for next week as a result of action taken by the Martin County Commissioners in special session last Thursday.

The change from Monday to Saturday was advanced by Judge R. T. Johnson who is transferring to a position in Washington, and the commissioners acted with the tentative approval of a majority of the Martin County Bar Association.

It now develops that Saturday will prove a disadvantageous time to hold the weekly sessions. Enforcement officers are usually busiest on Saturday, and members

of the highway patrol limit their activities almost entirely to patrol duty on Saturdays.

A committee was named to discuss the proposed change with Judge R. T. Johnson and the commissioners at their next regular meeting next Monday. During the meantime, a Saturday session will be held this week and none will be held next week, following the regular session next Monday, it was announced.

It was first proposed to hold the first Saturday session this week, but since it follows July 4, the change is being delayed one week.

Although he is transferring to the Washington position, Judge Johnson plans to maintain his residence here for the present.

Sheriff Working On "Aged" Murder Case

ROUND-UP

Four persons were rounded up and temporarily detained in the county jail last week-end. One was booked for drunken and hit-and-run driving, another for public drunkenness and still another for assaulting his wife and threatening the lives of officers.

One of the four was white and the other three were negro. They ranged from 23 to 39 years.

Sam S. Hardison Died On Sunday

Samuel Stewart Hardison, retired painter-fisherman, died at the Martin County home here Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Suffering with asthma, he received hospital treatment earlier in the day, and was thought to be getting along all right when he was stricken and died a short time later.

He was born in Williams Township 63 years ago, the son of the late William Washington and Millie Martin Mizelle Hardison. Moving to Williamston at an early age, he engaged in logging work and later did commercial fishing on the Roanoke and painted some. He was a veteran of World War I, entering the service April 25, 1918, and serving overseas from August 5, 1918, until June, 1919.

Surviving is a brother, William Franklin (Dink) Hardison. Funeral services are being conducted in the Biggs Funeral Home Chapel this afternoon at 5:00 o'clock by the Rev. R. E. Wainston, Methodist minister. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

AMVETS TO MEET

The Martin County AMVETS, Post 61, will meet Tuesday night, July 8, at 8:00 P. M., at the Martin County Courthouse. All white veterans and members are urged to be present.

JULY 4 HOLIDAY

Friday, July 4, will be observed as a general holiday here. All stores and other business houses will be closed for the day, but business, for the most part, will be resumed Saturday.

Heavy industry in some instances will close Thursday for the remainder of the week. There will be no Thursday edition of The Enterprise, since the office will be closed for a long week-end holiday.

Farmer Lost Life While In Bathing In Roanoke River

Body of Joseph Henry Stephenson Recovered On Monday Morning

Joseph Henry Stephenson, 44-year-old farmer of this county, was drowned in Roanoke River at Roberson's Landing, about seven miles above Hamilton, at 10:00 o'clock Sunday morning.

A tenant on the Jasper Harrell farm in Goose Nest Township, Mr. Stephenson went with Tom Christensen to fish in the river. Seeking relief from the heat, Stephenson pulled off his clothes, swam half way across the river and back and was swimming up stream about fifteen feet from the bank when he became exhausted. His 16-year-old son, William David Stephenson, extended a fishing pole to Stephenson who grabbed hold of it but was too weak to maintain his grip. Witnesses said he went down with his mouth open.

Deputy R. J. Rawls and others searched for the body until dark Sunday, and the drag was used to recover it Monday morning. (Continued on Page Six)

Boll Weevil Infestation Reported In This County

By S. A. Tuten, Assistant Agent
Boll weevil damage has been observed in several fields of cotton in various parts of this county during the past week. Four of these fields were sufficiently infested to justify the application of an insecticide.

Apparently, the weevils have not emerged in large numbers but where either the weevils or punctured squares are found an early application of a dust or spray is advisable. No special skill is required to determine the extent of damage. However, merely walking through a field and examining only a few squares may not reveal the weevils presence. The method of inspection which is being followed in regular surveys throughout the State is as follows:

1. Start inspecting squares at one corner of a field and proceed across the field toward the opposite corner.
2. Check 100 squares at random, removing and pocketing the squares, which have either been punctured or are turning yellow.
3. After 100 squares have been inspected, count the damaged bolls which were removed.
4. If ten or more of the 100 squares were damaged it is time to start dusting or spraying.

(Continued on Page Three)

Paul P. Peel Died Suddenly Sunday at Hamilton Home

Funeral Conducted Monday Afternoon at 4:30 By Rev. C. L. Gatling

Paul P. Peel, retired Williamston merchant and veteran of World War I, died suddenly at the home of his brother in Hamilton between 1:00 and 2:00 o'clock Sunday morning. He had been in declining health for a number of years, undergoing treatment in a government hospital for months. However, his condition was much improved in recent months and last Saturday he was active in various parts of the county as a representative of a scales company. He went to his home shortly before midnight, got a drink of water and retired apparently in his usual health. He was found dead in bed Sunday morning by members of the family when they called him for breakfast. It is thought he died of a heart attack.

A son of the late W. A. and Elizabeth Winberry Peel, he was born on a farm near Hamilton 64 years ago on April 11, 1888. At the age of 17 years he left the farm (Continued on Page Five)

REFERENDUM

Tobacco farmers will vote on crop control for one or three years or reject quotas in a referendum to be held on Saturday, July 19, according to unofficial information received here this week.

It is generally believed the vote will be in favor of the referendum, but there is some danger that the farmers will not take time to participate in the referendum.

Smallest Vote On Record Was Cast In Last Primary

Parker Leads Bobbitt Almost Four To One For Associate Justice

Casting one of the smallest votes on record, Martin County voters in the second primary last Saturday favored R. Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids almost four to one over William Bobbitt of Charlotte for associate justice of the North Carolina State Supreme Court.

The vote in this county was so small that it hardly figured in the final outcome, the unofficial returns giving Parker 342 and Bobbitt 90 for the regular term. The

county precincts except one and tied Bobbitt at 17-all in that one—Poplar Point.

Williamston, with two of the largest precincts in the county, made a mighty poor showing with its vote turn-out, while little Gold Point cast forty-one ballots. Williamston cast a few in excess of 100 votes in both precincts combined.

The unofficial vote, by precincts follows for the regular term:

	Parker	Bobbitt
Jamesville	15	8
Williams	13	2
Griffins	14	8
Bear Grass	9	2
Williamston 1	14	6
Williamston 2	63	25
Cross Roads	15	1
Robersonville	71	9
Gold Point	40	1
Poplar Point	17	17
Hamilton	24	1
Hassel	17	2
Goose Nest	30	8
	342	90

Complete returns from the State are not yet available, but on the basis of the latest returns, Parker is leading Bobbitt by more than 3,000, meaning that only an official count by the State Board of Elections next week will give an accurate picture of the contest.

(Continued on Page Six)

Mrs. Mary Taylor Died Early Today At West End Home

Funeral Service Will Be Conducted In Baptist Church Thursday

Mrs. Mary Taylor, one of the county's oldest and most highly respected citizens, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Dennis Hardy, in West End this morning at 6:00 o'clock following a long period of declining health. She had been critically ill for about two months.

The daughter of the late Abraham and Louendia Daniel Whitaker, she was born in Washington County 86 years ago in May, 1866. After spending her early life there, she moved with her family to this county and in early womanhood was married to James Nathaniel Taylor, locating on the Taylor farm in Poplar Point Township. Following the death of Mr. Taylor 28 years ago she had made her home with the children in and around Williamston, always living as a good neighbor and friend, and one who walked humbly but nobly through life.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Hardy and Mrs. Bertha Keel of Williamston; five sons, Robert A. Taylor, who continues quite ill in Veterans Hospital, Fayetteville, Samuel E. Taylor of Poplar Point, George Luther Taylor of Williams Township, Dorsey E. Taylor of Hopewell, Va., and James Lester Taylor of Rocky Mount; a step-daughter, Mrs. Nora Gaines of Williamston; two sisters, Mrs. Bettie Thompson of Scotland Neck and Mrs. Minnie Jenkins of Rocky Mount; thirty-two grandchildren and twenty-five great-grandchildren.

She was a member of the Williamston Memorial Baptist Church and the funeral service will be held there Thursday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock by the pastor, the Rev. E. Gordon Conklin. Interment will be in the family plot in the Robersonville Cemetery.

County Tax Rate To Remain Unchanged

FIRST BLOSSOMS

Thriving during the hot and dry weather conditions, cotton is "putting out" blossoms right along in this county.

Farmer M. L. Peel was the first to produce a blossom from the current crop. It was a day or two old when picked last Friday morning on the Keith farm near Williamston, the farmer said.

A few hours later, Farmer Leslie Roberson displayed a pretty and well-developed blossom produced

Board Grants \$10 Salary Increase For All Employees

Rate of \$1.35 Estimated To Raise \$335,435.00 For Next Fiscal Year

Meeting in special session last week, the commissioners tentatively adopted the 1952-53 Martin County budget, calling for \$335,435 and a supporting rate of \$1.35,

compared with the departmental figures in effect last year, remains unchanged.

The 1952-53 county tax structure is based on an assessed property valuation of \$25,000,000.00, the highest book listing in the history of the county and one and three-quarter million dollars higher than the total for 1951-52.

The general county rate, including the general fund, county home, poor fund, health fund, bond interest and sinking fund, public welfare divisions, was increased eight cents per \$100 assessed valuation from 57 to 65 cents while the school fund was decreased eight cents from 78 to 70 cents per \$100 assessed property valuation.

Other than the bond interest and sinking fund requirements, the budget remains little changed with slight reductions in the health and welfare departmental rates.

A straight-across the board salary increase of \$10 per month was allowed for all officers and employees with possibly one or two exceptions. The action affects the total hardly more than \$2,000 and does not alter the general county fund rate.

It was estimated that the following amounts will be needed to finance the county operations during the 1952-53 fiscal year as compared with the 1951-52 total which (Continued on Page Six)

Superior Courts Short Of Judges

There's an acute shortage of judges, and it is fairly certain that some of the superior court terms will have to be cancelled or postponed, according to reports from the Superior Court Bar Association.

John M. Strong, administrative assistant to the Chief Justice, was in the county last Friday afternoon explaining the judge shortage, and asked if it would be possible to shorten the September term of the court to one week in this county. The bar association members explained that there was a heavy carry-over docket from the June court, that the full two weeks and even more time would be required to bring the docket and calendar up to date.

The term will not be altered as a result of the conference, but Judge W. I. Halstead will take over during the second week after Judge Clawson Williams presides over the first of the term.

TAKE IT EASY

Take it easy and live! That was the good advice handed out to businessmen at the American Management Association's convention here. It was suggested that only the mortician business benefits from business leaders who insist on doing everything themselves and who won't take enough time off for relaxation.

Excellent performance is not based on "star" performers but on teamwork where everyone shares the responsibility and authority, Ralph J. Cordiner, president of the General Electric Company, said.

In other words: Get smart — go slower, do better, and live longer.

William J. Keel Funeral Friday In Church Here

Prominent Citizen Died At Daughter's Home After A Long Illness

Funeral services were conducted in the local Presbyterian Church last Friday afternoon at 5:00 o'clock for William Jesse

Keel, well-known county citizen, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. M. Myers, on Halifax Street Thursday afternoon at 12:30 o'clock. The Rev. J. Don Skinner, the pastor, assisted by Elder A. B. Ayers, conducted the rites and interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery.

He had been in declining health for five years, spending the last three in bed as an invalid.

The son of the late James Pugh and Ethel Bowen Keel, he was born in Cross Roads Township 79 years ago on August 22, 1872, and spent his early life on the farm. In early manhood he was married to Sarah Peel who died June 28, 1948. In addition to his farming operations which were highly progressive, he figured prominently in the good roads movement in this county, supervising the first road construction projects in

Williamston. He was a member of the Woodlawn Presbyterian Church in Everett, he located (Continued on Page Three)

Native Of County Dies At Hertford

Mrs. Emma Taylor Williams died at her home in Perquimans County near Hertford Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock after a long period of declining health. She had been an invalid for five years and her condition was critical following a stroke about ten days ago.

The daughter of the late Daniel Taylor and wife, she was born in Cross Roads Township 67 years ago and lived there and in Robersonville community all her life until she went to make her home near Hertford about eighteen months ago.

She was married to John Staton Williams who died in 1948, and was a member of the Cedar Grove Free Will Baptist Church for many years.

Surviving are six sons, Dallas Williams of Newport News, J. D. Williams of Richmond, Clarence and Raymond Williams of Robersonville, Cecil Williams of Williamston, and Lorie Williams of Bethel; two daughters, Mrs. Kader Rawls of Williamston, and Mrs. E. R. Farecloth of Smithfield; and one sister, Mrs. Crissie Bullock of Williamston.

Funeral services are being conducted at her daughter's home here on Ray Street this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by the Rev. Marshall Joyner, a former pastor. Interment will be in the Williams family cemetery near Robersonville.