

Budget For Town Is Tentatively Set By Commissioners

Small Salary Increases Are Granted In Several Departments

Williamston's 1952-53 budget, calling for a tax levy of approximately \$95,000, was tentatively approved by the board of commissioners in regular meeting last evening. Final figures, subject to approval, will be released just as soon as a few adjustments are made, it was explained. The budget total runs about the same as the one in effect for the last fiscal year, and leaves the tax rate unchanged at \$2.00 per \$100 assessed property valuation.

Small salary increases, ranging from \$10 to \$12.50 a month, were approved, the board pointing out that the small increases will bring the pay schedule in line with the prevailing wage scale, services considered.

Treasurer C. M. Cobb reported \$33,023 in cash on hand, and listed revenue from sewer rentals at \$28.65, and \$933. from parking meters. Approximately \$4,495 is due in 1951 taxes.

A petition, calling for the curbing and surfacing of North Elm Street, from Church to White Street, was received and placed in line.

The Williamston Boosters' traffic committee made suggestions for relieving the parking and traffic problems. The purchase of parking lots for off-street parking meters. The committee also recommended the elimination of parking meters on North Smithwick Street, no left turns from Washington Street into Main, one-way alleys by Dardens Store and the Guaranty Bank, to assign police to congested intersections during certain hours, to synchronize the stop lights and to place a stop light at the Houghton-Washington Street intersection. The report was duly acknowledged, but no action was taken.

The town attorney was instructed to start condemnation proceedings for a sidewalk leading to the AME Zion Church on Rhodes Street.

A grade crossing for Slade Street was discussed.

Taxi franchises were discussed, the board delaying action on a problem created when a holder

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Hamilton Home Burned Monday

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the Dewey Stalls six-room home and all the contents about 3:00 o'clock Monday morning in Hamilton. Mr. Stalls and family had left earlier in the morning for a visit in Philadelphia, and no one was at home. Neighbors, smelling smoke, got up just in time to see the fire break through the roof and the weatherboarding.

The fire, by that time, had gained so much headway that the neighbors could not even get close enough to get the boys' bicycles off the porch.

Robersonville's fire department answered the call to keep the fire from spreading.

The house belonged to Commissioner Henry S. Johnson who explained that his store burned in Hamilton four years ago to the day.

The house and contents were insured for about one-half their value, it was learned.

ANSWER

Meeting Monday, members of the Martin County Board of Education discussed final plans for answering the \$600,000 law suit brought against them by a number of Martin County Negroes. The answer is being filed in the federal court at Washington.

Only three members of the board, Messrs. J. D. Woolard, Cecil Powell and Ernest Edmondson, were in attendance upon the meeting. Ill for some time but much improved now, Mr. Edmondson was able to attend his first meeting in some time.

Railroad Underpass Case To Go To Supreme Court

In a ruling handed down a few days ago, Judge J. Paul Frizzelle said the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company was not obliged to do anything to eliminate the death trap at the underpass on Williamston's West Main Street. At the same time, the jurist maintained that the North Carolina State Highway Commission was obliged to remedy the situation.

The ruling leaves the condition still mired down in confusion with the railroad company holding the high hand just now. It means that the case will be carried to the State Supreme Court by the Highway Commission and possibly the

town. During the meantime, the death trap continues to stand, a monument to apparent stubbornness on the part of someone.

If the town authorities do not carry its case against the Coast Line to the Supreme Court, then the Highway Commission is likely to seek relief there. Should the Highway Commission go to the high court and score a victory, then the town is left bottled up by an unsightly obstacle with little or no hope for relief.

It had been hoped that a joint operation could be arranged, but since the railroad company has scored a preliminary victory, that hope is believed to have faded.

IMPORTANT

An important meeting of farmers, business and professional men and civic leaders from all over the county will be held in the Martin County courthouse Thursday evening of this week at 8:00 o'clock. The July 19 referendum on tobacco marketing quotas will be discussed at that time by a representative of the State Production - Marketing Administration office.

The public is invited to attend and hear the important issue discussed.

Native Of County Died Wednesday In Gainesville

Funeral Held Last Saturday In Florida For Mrs. Frank Sexton

Mrs. Frank Sexton, a native of this county, died in a Gainesville, Florida, hospital last Wednesday night at 11:00 o'clock following a few months of declining health. Her condition had been critical only a few weeks.

The former Miss Lillian Belle Hardison, she was born in this county fifty-six years ago on October 10, 1895, the daughter of the late Simon Edwin and Sallie Martin Hardison. After attending the local schools and Atlantic Christian College, she was married to Mr. Sexton of Jamesville, and located in 1921 in the Florida city where her husband was just recently re-elected sheriff of the county.

Well remembered here, Mrs. Sexton was active in the affairs of Gainesville. She was a member of the Cosmos Club, the Hydrangea Circle of the Gainesville Garden Club, the American Legion Auxiliary, the V. F. W. Auxiliary, the League of Women Voters, the Home Demonstration Club, and the 40 and 8, Fourth District, Salon No. 521.

Surviving besides her husband are seven brothers, Lucian J., Lee D., Willford, R. J., George and C. B. Hardison, all of Williamston, and John Hardison of Gainesville.

Funeral services were conducted at the First Christian Church where she was a member in Gainesville last Saturday morning at 10:00 o'clock by the pastor, the Rev. Paul Henry Packard. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Gainesville.

Among those attending the funeral from this county were: Messrs. Howard Gaylord, W. B.

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Royal Studio Moves To The Leggett Building

Housed over the Firestone Store next to the Guaranty Bank for several years, the Royal Studio is moving to the second floor of the Leggett building on Main Street. Mr. Wm. Tetterton said this morning they planned to open for business in the new quarters on Thursday of this week.

CONTINUES QUITE ILL

Mrs. Robert Todd, telephone supervisor in the local office, continues quite ill in Duke Hospital. A late report said she did not rest at all last night until 4:00 o'clock this morning. She was transferred to Durham in a Biggs ambulance last Thursday.

Two Wrecks Here During Holidays

No one was badly hurt but considerable damage resulted in two automobile accidents reported on local streets during the long July 4 holiday week-end. Several local people were involved in highway accidents outside the county but none of them was believed to have been badly hurt. A year ago, two persons were killed on the highways in this county.

The holiday observance started off with a bang at 8:00 o'clock on the morning of the Fourth when a 1951 Chevrolet, driven by R. Adams Draughan of Dunn, crashed into a 1952 Buick driven by Ernest N. Morgan of Charleston at the Watts-Main stop light. Traveling north, the Buick had stopped for the red light and the Chevrolet plowed into the rear of it, causing about \$750 damage to the month-old Buick and about \$500 to Draughan's car. Iris Moore, riding in the Chevrolet, suffered a painful cut under her right eye, and Mrs. Morgan suffered a minor leg injury. Others, including Mrs. Gene Butcher in the Buick, experienced minor shock and all were able to continue following treatment in a local hospital. Members of the local police department made the investigation.

Driving north on East Main Street, Rudolph Everett stopped his Chevrolet quickly near Roanoke Avenue and Wheeler Brown plowed into the rear of the Chevrolet with his Ford. Investigating the accident, Officer Chas. Moore said no one was hurt and that the damage was limited to \$50 to Brown's car.

Gilbert P. Chase Dies In Richmond

Commander Gilbert Paul Chase, USN Retired, died in Richmond July 2nd of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was born at Bunker Hill Plantation, Lancaster County, Virginia, September 20, 1873, son of Captain William Tell Chase and Fannie Lee Beeler. He was educated in Baltimore schools, Virginia Military Institute and graduated class 1897 at Annapolis. His retired life was spent in Paris, France, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Lancaster County, Virginia.

He married in Havana, Cuba, January 26, 1905, Edelmira Culmell, daughter of the Danish Consul. She with one son, Gilbert, of Lima, Peru, Cultural Attache, State Department; three grandsons, Paul, Peter and John; three sisters, Mrs. E. E. Lawson, Sr., New Point, Virginia, Mrs. Rawleigh Carter, Kilmarnock, Virginia and Mrs. James Grist Staton, Williamston, survive him. Burial was at Sea.

Dr. A. R. Peele Enters Practice

Dr. A. R. Peele has entered upon the practice of veterinary medicine in this and adjoining counties, and will open an office just as soon as quarters can be found, it was announced today.

The son of Mrs. G. A. Peele of near Williamston and the late Mr. Peele the young doctor was recently graduated from the School of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn, Alabama.

Dr. and Mrs. Peele are at home in the Corey Apartments in West End.

Flood Gates Are Closed At Buggs Island June 30th

Reservoir To Be Filled To Required Level About First Of October

The flood gates of the John H. Kerr Dam at Buggs Island were officially closed June 30 and the filling of the huge 88,000 acre basin behind the dam was started. In some places the lake to be created will be more than 100 feet deep.

For a few hours at a time in the past month the gates had been closed to permit certain engineering tests and calculations to be carried out, but June 30 marked the official start of the filling of the reservoir.

It was stated that the only factors which might enter into a decision to reopen the gates before the reservoir is filled to the power development level would be a great flood requiring a drawdown of the waters on an accelerated scale, stoppage of work above the dam on roads and bridges because of a shortage of steel or failure to clear up some pending land acquisition cases before the water level of the lake reached the level of these lands.

At the present time because of the steel strike some difficulty is being experienced in obtaining steel to complete the highway bridge at Clarksville, Va., which is being elevated about 45 feet, and some units of the power house cannot be put into use, or water run through them, until certain vital steel parts are obtained. Col. William Powers, district engineer in charge, emphasized that this work must be completed and the vital parts obtained before full use could be made of the huge development.

Colonel Powers was on hand for the closing of the gates. He pointed out that three small gates remain open to carry the normal average flow of the river for the protection of down stream interests. It is estimated by the Corps of Engineers, said Col. Powers, that the reservoir will be filled up to the required level for power development by October when the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir will be officially dedicated.

Accident Victims Reported Better

Injured in falls while working on the new Negro high school here, Messrs. Geo. Beach and J. T. Williams were reported improving in a local hospital today.

Beach suffered fractures of both legs when a staging collapsed week before last. He plans to return to his home today. Mr. Williams suffered a back injury when he fell from a scaffold Tuesday.

DIRECT

Rufus Armstrong, Manager, of Williamston Radio Station WIAM has just announced that WIAM will carry Daily programs direct from Convention Hall in Chicago from 7:00 to 7:15 p. m., beginning today, July 8.

Merle O'Brien, noted commentator, will interview North Carolina Delegates on each of these programs.

General Rains Reported In The County Past Few Days

Possibly the dry spell has not been broken in its entirety in all parts of the county, but heavy showers fell in various sections Sunday, followed by fairly general rains Monday and bringing about the first real relief from one of the longest dry-hot spells in years.

Williamston, reporting nearly three inches of rain Sunday afternoon and up until early last night, had the heaviest rainfall reported in the State during the period of approximately 24 hours. Sunday afternoon from 2 to 3 o'clock, 1.95 inches of rain fell, according to a report released by Hugh Spruill, Roanoke River bridge keeper. The fall, however, was limited. The Hamilton and Farm Life sections reported mighty little, but the rains Monday were more general, and it is believed all sections are free of the drought to some extent, at least.

Highway Corporal Painfully Injured In Wreck Sunday

Ralph Boston Held In \$2,000 Bond In Martin And Beaufort Counties

Cpl. M. C. Byrum, popular member of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol with headquarters in Williamston, was painfully injured in a highway accident over in Beaufort County Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock. Suffering two broken ribs, chest and head injuries and a bruised leg, the officer was removed to a local hospital in a Washington ambulance. Last reports stating that his condition is improving.

Patrolling Highway 64 in the Dardens section Sunday morning, the officer met a speeder and turned around to check him. The race, stepped up to 95 miles an hour at times, continued into Jamesville where Ralph Edgar Boston, driving a Buick, made a left turn into Highway 171 and maintained the pace. Corporal Byrum called for a road block and three patrolmen from this county and Washington set up a road block on the route not far from Old Ford. After crossing from Martin into Beaufort County, Boston, 22 years old, turned left into a dirt road connecting with Washington's Market Street, Extension.

The Buick was said to have forced a Chevrolet pick-up truck off the road, the driver of the truck pulling back just in time to hit the highway patrol car head on. The driver of the truck and passengers were said not to have been badly hurt, but were treated in a Washington hospital.

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Wind-Hail Storm Strikes Section

A wind and hail storm, its force more or less limited, struck parts of this county Sunday afternoon, blowing a tenant dwelling off its foundation and falling a few trees and shelters in its path. Some hail was reported in the Poplar Point section, but damage there is not believed to be extensive. The reports are to be checked later in the week by adjusters, it was learned.

No one was said to have been hurt when the wind lifted the five-room tenant house belonging to Agriculturist Vance L. Roberson off its foundation near Gold Point Sunday afternoon. Several fairly sizable trees were blown down in that area, and a tobacco barn and a shelter were wrecked by the wind, one on the Grimes farm, and the other near Butler's bridge.

Badly Burned In Tar Kettle Explosion Here

Mr. J. C. White, owner and operator of White's Sheet Metal Works, was badly burned about the face and hands when a large tar kettle exploded at his plant on South Smithwick Street at 11:40 o'clock this morning. A worker at the plant was also hurt, but the extent of his injuries could not be learned immediately. Mr. White was removed to a local hospital for treatment.

The fire department was called and firemen put the burning tar out.

Road Program Nears End In This County

County Board Of Commissioners In All-Day Meeting

Approximately 127 Miles Of Roads Surfaced Or Are To Be Surfaced

Martin County's secondary road program is nearing completion, the Martin County Commissioners, in an all-day meeting Monday, were advised by District Highway Commissioner Henry Gray Shelton. It does not necessarily mean that there will be no more roads surfaced or improved, but it was explained that the money made available by the \$200 million bond program has been expended in this county.

Commissioner Shelton, accompanied by Engineers Spruill and Liverman, explained the road program and pointed out that 26.6 miles of road in excess of the original allotment had been or will have been constructed in the county within the next several months. Aided by federal money, the commission is to surface soon two more projects, totaling 6.4 miles. Both projects were designated by the engineers on the basis of daily traffic counts. Mr. Shelton explained. One of the projects runs from Gold Point to Huskinaw Swamp and thence to Highway 64, about one and one-half miles from Robersonville or near the point where the railroad crosses the highway. The project is 4.5 miles long. The other project, just 1.9 miles long, runs off Highway 17, about three miles from Williamston, and connects with the Bear Grass Highway near the old Biggs school site.

Surfacing work is progressing on a road from Highway 17 to Smithwick's Creek, and on two roads in Bear Grass Township.

Several projects, in addition to 11.1 miles already approved and on which work is progressing in most cases, were approved by Commissioner Shelton and the engineers for widening and stabilizing. The newly recommended projects include:

Two and six-tenths miles of road running from a point near Smithwick's Creek via the Hodges farm to the Beaufort County line;

The Daniel Road in Griffins Township, 2.5 miles;

A road in Griffins Township, leading off the Old Mill Inn-Smithwick's Creek Road at Griffin's station via E. H. Manning

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Hail Loss Adds Up To About \$40,000

Hail, striking sections of Williams and Jamesville Townships about 10:30 a. m. Sunday, caused damage estimated at \$40,000 or more. Approximately 100 claims were adjusted last week by representatives of insurance agencies, and nearly \$40,000 was paid to the claimants.

No acreage estimates could be had, but farm after farm in Jamesville Township was struck, the damage running as high as fifty percent in some cases and as low as 6 or 7 percent in other fields.

Payments to individual farmers ran as much as \$2,200, it was learned.

One company's premium receipts amounted to less than half the amount paid back to farmers in this county it was declared.

Five adjusters, including Sam Edwards, former teacher in the Williamston schools, worked two days making the adjustments in this county.

Undergoes Operation In Baltimore Hospital

Mr. C. G. Crockett who underwent an operation in Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, last week is reported to be in excellent condition. The operation on his left leg was said to be a success and he will probably return home within ten days or two weeks.

Twenty Cases In The County Court Monday, June 30

Impose Fines In The Sum Of \$500 During The Short Session

Judge R. T. Johnson handled twenty cases during a short session of the Martin County Recorder's Court on Monday, June 30. Fines were imposed in the sum of \$500.

The two speeding cases against Richard W. Husted and Thomas F. Nagelin, Cherry Point marines, were not pressed.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Medrick Daniel was fined \$100, plus costs.

Charged with non-support, Walter Godard was adjudged guilty and was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of the costs and \$12 a month for the support of his six children during the next two years.

Robert W. Clark was fined \$10, plus costs, for speeding.

Dossey Tyner was sentenced to the roads for thirty days for violating the liquor laws. The road term was suspended upon the payment of a \$10 fine and costs.

Pleading guilty of assaulting his wife, Charlie M. Scott was sentenced to the roads for nine months. The term was suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs, and on the condition that he'll not mistreat his wife or drink liquor during the next five years.

Jasper was fined \$10, plus costs, for violating the liquor laws.

Pleading guilty of issuing a worthless check, George Ruffin was taxed with the costs and directed to pay the amount of the check.

Seth Boston, pleading guilty of drunken driving, was fined \$100 and taxed with the costs.

Pleading guilty of speeding 80 miles an hour, Talmadge Lee Wells was fined \$50 and taxed with the costs.

Adjudged guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, James Clarrington was sentenced to the roads for six months. (Continued on page eight)

Two Wrecks On County Highways

One person was hurt but property damage was limited on the highways in this county last week, including the long July 4 holiday.

Randolph Moore, young Williamston man, suffered a head injury when his car, a 1951 Ford driven by Sylvester Leggett, was ditched, throwing the victim into the windshield. Leggett was driving on the Bear Grass-Sweet Home Road and started to pass another car, ran off the road and ditched the vehicle about 2:00 o'clock Friday afternoon. Investigating the accident, Patrolman R. P. Narron estimated the damage to the car at \$250. Removed to the Martin General Hospital Moore was said to have a fractured skull.

On Tuesday of last week at 11:45 p. m., L. C. Purvis, young colored boy of RFD 2, Robersonville, lost control of his 1942 Dodge and turned it over on Highway 993 between Robersonville and Gold Point. The car, according to Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation, ran off the right side of the road, skidded 42 yards before swerving to the left and continuing 22 more yards and finally turning over. No one was hurt. Damage to the machine was estimated at \$100.

ROUND-UP

Well, just about everybody in this immediate area took a holiday during the Fourth of July observance except law enforcement officers who were kept busy rounding up alleged law violators.

Twelve persons were temporarily detained in the county jail, their ages ranging from 21 to 52 years of age. Five were booked for public drunkenness, three for drunk driving, and one each for gambling, speeding, violating the liquor laws and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler Martin received notice last week that their son and nephew, Oscar Anderson, Jr., was recently promoted from Major to Lt. Colonel. Colonel and Mrs. Martin are stationed in Washington.

Funeral Service For Mrs. Alligood Here Last Friday

Well-Known County Citizen Died Last Wednesday In Raleigh Hospital

Funeral services were conducted in the Biggs Funeral Home Chapel here last Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for Mrs. Adana Newton Alligood who died in a Raleigh hospital last Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. The Rev. Mr. Sherman, former pastor of the Williams Chapel Church near Palmyra, conducted the rites and interment was in the Waters family cemetery in Jamesville Township.

Mrs. Alligood had been in declining health for some time, but her condition was not considered serious until about two weeks ago when she was removed to the hospital.

The daughter of the late Joseph Baker Waters and Aletha Waters, she was born in Jamesville Township 78 years ago on May 9, 1874.

After spending most of her life there, in early womanhood she was married to J. R. Newton who died in 1915. Following her marriage to W. J. Alligood, she made her home in Roanoke Rapids where she was a member of the Christian Church. Following Mr. Alligood's death in 1940, she made her home with a daughter, Mrs. Henry Early, in this county. More recently she visited in the home of another daughter, Mrs. Walter Wooten at Wendell, leaving there to enter the hospital.

Mrs. Alligood had many friends in her native and adopted communities and was held in high esteem by all who knew her.

Surviving are two sons and three daughters, all by her first marriage, Archie D. and Phillip Newton, both of Miami, Mrs. Henry Early of Oak City, Mrs. Walter Wooten of Wendell and Mrs. Walter Borovkiff of Norristown, Pa.; three sisters, Mrs. J. B. Hardy of Greenville, Mrs. D. B. Harrison and Mrs. Harvey Wheeler, both of Roanoke Rapids; two brothers, Warren and Edgar Waters, both of Jamesville; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Escaped Injury In Car Accident

Several local young people escaped injury during a heavy rain storm about 2:45 o'clock Sunday afternoon when their car, a Plymouth, turned over on a curve in the Washington-Belhaven Highway near Panteo. Miss Marie Peel, driver, was accompanied by Bettie Roberson and Billy Britton Thomas, and they were en route to Belhaven to attend a young people's religious meeting. The car was badly damaged, according to reports reaching here.