

Appoint H. O. Peele County Court Judge

Judge Johnson Resigning Post Last Of Month

County Commissioners Begin New Term With A Long Session

Herbert O. Peel, Williamston attorney and insurance man, was appointed judge of the Martin County Recorder's Court by the board of commissioners during a long Monday session. Peel is succeeding Judge R. T. Johnson who is resigning effective the first of the new year. Johnson, sworn in for a new term last Saturday, finds it necessary to quit the bench and devote his full time to his job as Coast Line agent in Washington. Since he transferred to the Washington office, the court has been holding its weekly sessions on Saturdays to avoid a conflict with Johnson's regular duties. Beginning in January the court will hold its sessions on Mondays, it was explained.

Representatives of the county bar association appeared before the commissioners and recommended that the appointment be limited to a member of the legal profession, but no candidate was recommended. Four formal applications were filed for the position, it was learned. The job pays \$2,100 a year.

Holding their first session of the new term, the commissioners quickly perfected their organization for the next two years. John H. Edwards of Williamston was elected to succeed himself as chairman of the board, after he and Commissioners C. C. Martin of Jamesville, James C. Gurkin of Griffins, H. L. Roebuck of Cross Roads and H. S. Johnson of Hamilton had subscribed to the oath of office before Clerk L. B. Wynne. Mr. Gurkin is entering upon his duties as a member of the board for the first time, and is representing the Griffins-Bear Grass district. J. Sam Getsinger subscribed to the oath of office as register of deeds for another four-year term.

Clarence Griffin was appointed solicitor of the county recorder's court. He succeeds himself in that position.

M. L. Peel was appointed tax supervisor for the 1953 tax year. He will name and call the list-takers into a meeting later in the month.

E. S. Peel was appointed county attorney, succeeding himself. The board went on record as favoring a special legislative act, creating a relief fund for peace officers in Martin County.

It was recommended that the State Highway and Public Works Commission take over and work as a community project about one-quarter mile of road in Goose Nest Township, beginning at a point near Love Williams' residence.

Bonds were approved in the sum of \$5,000 for Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger, and \$40,000 for Treasurer R. H. Smith.

The board took membership in the Southern Albemarle Bridge Association and named E. S. Peel as vice president, the group going on record as favoring the construction of bridges across Alligator River and Croatan Sound. Messrs. Meekins, Daniels and Swain of Dare County discussed the project with the commissioners.

In his monthly report, Tax Collector M. L. Peel said that all but \$134,886.76 of the \$393,582.02 tax levy for 1952 had been collected. There's a balance of \$16,470.87.

Mr. Peel said that \$329,687.46 of the \$357,123.44 levy for 1950 had been collected, that all but \$4,668.05 of the \$309,430.90 levy for 1949 had been paid.

LEGION DANCE

The John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion will sponsor a round and square dance in the Legion Hut here on Watts Street Friday night from 8:30 until 12:30. John Piland and his orchestra will play for the event. It was announced, and the public is invited.

APPOINTED



H. O. Peele, well-known Williamston man, was appointed judge of the Martin County Recorder's Court by the board of commissioners. Mr. Peele is succeeding Judge R. T. Johnson who is resigning effective the end of this month.

New Farm Agent Is A Dirt Farmer

Farming and its problems are nothing new to Martin County's new assistant farm agent, Larry Latham Hodges. A glance at his life shows that he has been close to agricultural activities since he was born on a Pitt County farm in August, 1923.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Hodges, Mr. Hodges grew up on his father's farm and attended Stokes High School where he was active in the Future Farmers of America and 4-H Club work.

When he was graduated from high school in 1942, he was called into service and attended radio school at Winston-Salem before he went on active duty in the Europe Theater of Operations. During his forty-two months in the armed service, he was stationed in France, Germany, Austria and a number of military posts in the United States.

After his separation from the army in 1946, he returned to Pitt County where he farmed for a year before enrolling in the agriculture-education department of North Carolina State College, Raleigh. He became a member of the Agriculture Club at the school and for three years taught a night class of veterans studying farming under the government veteran training program.

He received his degree in December, 1951, and joined the Williamston school faculty the following January as vocational-agricultural teacher. He recently resigned his teaching position to become an assistant in the Martin County farm agent's office, and will take over his duties on December 15.

Commenting on his resignation, Mr. Hodges said that he had enjoyed his school work and that his relationships with Principal B. G. Stewart and other members of the faculty had been one of the most pleasant aspects of his stay in Williamston.

About his new job he had this to say: "Since I came to Martin County with the school system, I have come to know and like the farmers in this section and am looking forward to working more closely with them."

Mr. Hodges was married in June, 1948, to Miss Doris Franck of Scotland Neck.

Car Wrecked On Jamesville Road

No one was injured and property damage was limited to about \$125 when a 1941 Ford went out of control a short distance east of Gardner's Creek about 5:00 o'clock Friday afternoon and turned over. According to a report released by Patrolman Carl Gilchrist, Willie Reese, Jr., of RFD 2, Williamston, was driving the car belonging to Carl Rogers.

Town Board Has Uneventful Meet Here Last Night

Make Plans For Joint Ses- sion With Highway And County Officials

Holding their last regular meeting in the current calendar year, Williamston's town commissioners last evening discussed plans for holding a joint session with representatives of the North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission and county officials. A truck route for U. S. Highway 17 and the railroad underpass on West Main Street will be discussed with the possibility that action will be taken on one or both problems. The meeting will be held tomorrow afternoon at 1:00 o'clock in the George Reynolds Hotel.

Preparations for placing curb and gutter on Sycamore Street from Main to Washington Street are going forward, and it is planned to have the thoroughfare paved within the next few months. Other paving projects were discussed along with drainage problems in that area from Elm to Sycamore Street, but no action was taken.

The old rambling wreck which the police have been using is to be sold at public auction and bids for a new car are to be called for immediately.

Treasurer C. M. Cobb reported \$61,099.18 in cash on hand, including \$30,812.90 in special street funds. The sewer rental account, depleted by the expansion of the system last summer and early fall, is gradually recovering, and now has \$1,047.00 to its credit.

The treasurer also reported that \$58,162.88 had been collected in 1952 taxes, that the income from parking meters last month amounted to \$641.00. The sewer rental income for November amounted to \$826.00.

Street lights are to be installed on Hassell Street between Academy and Church, one at the corner of Slade and Sycamore Streets, another at Vance and School Drive, and still another at the corner of Broad and Franklin Streets near Woodlawn Cemetery.

The board was in session less than an hour, and the meeting was an uneventful one.

Finishes Training At Base In Texas

Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.—Ben Hassell Grimes, 27, son of Mrs. Nora D. Grimes, 505 West Main Street, Williamston is completing his AF basic airman indoctrination course at Lackland Air Force Base, "Gateway to the Air Force."

Lackland, situated near San Antonio, is the world's largest air force base, site of Air Force basic training for men and women, headquarters of the Human Resource Research Center, and home of AF's Officer Candidate School.

His basic training is preparing him for entrance into Air Force technical training and for assignment in specialized work. The course includes a scientific evaluation of his aptitude and inclination for following a particular vocation and career.

"High Noon" At The Vicar Theater Tonight

Showing at the Vicar Theater tonight is "High Noon" with Gary Cooper in the leading role instead of Lum and Abner in "Two Weeks To Live" as was listed in last Thursday's theater advertisements.

An error in the Enterprise office caused the wrong listing of "High Noon."

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Williamston's holiday lights are being installed in the main business districts, and weather permitting, will be turned on tomorrow night. The same decorative pattern in effect last season, is being followed this year.

A change in the scheme had been mentioned, but all the material had been cut to fit into the present pattern, it was explained.

Red Cross Bloodmobile To Visit Here December 11th

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will make a scheduled visit in Williamston on Thursday, December 11, it was announced by Blood Bank Chairman James S. Rhodes, Jr., today. Quite a few persons in the chapter have already signed pledge cards, but approximately 50 or 75 others are needed to assure a quota of 120 pints, it was pointed out.

Mrs. A. L. Jameson has accepted the recruitment chairmanship, and she with the aid of Mrs. H. H. Cowen, of the Red Cross office, is directing an urgent appeal to the women in the chapter to support the movement. It was explained that quite a few donors signed pledge cards when the bloodmobile was here six months ago. They will be assigned appointments not later than the early part of next week.

A definite location for establishing headquarters for the bloodmobile has not been determined, Chairman Rhodes explained, but a building will be made available and the location announced within the next few days.

The Martin County Red Cross Chapter has met each quota for almost two years, and the citizens therein are asked to volunteer without delay and make certain that the quota will be met next week. Volunteers are asked to contact either Mrs. Jameson or the Red Cross office in the town hall.

STORE HOURS

On Friday nights of this and next week, Williamston merchants will keep their stores open until 9:00 o'clock. Beginning on Thursday, December 18, and on through Christmas Eve, the stores will be open every evening until 9:00 o'clock, it was announced.

County Boy Writes Home From Korea

Leaving the United States on November 4 for the Far East, A 2/c Garland Hardison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Belmer Hardison of Hamilton, recently arrived in Seoul, Korea. Writing back home a few days ago, the young man said:

"I am about forty miles from the combat zone and getting a long fine. I have met quite a few boys from North Carolina, but not any from my community. 'I'm not going to try to describe the condition of this country, but I will say the people in the United States have plenty to be thankful for."

"At the present time we are building up our living quarters and the facilities in which we plan to work. The weather gets pretty cold over here, but we have enough clothes and equipment to keep warm."

"I will appreciate any mail and it can reach me at the following address: A/2c Garland Hardison, AF 14409275, 608 AC and W Sqdn. APO 970, Cape Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif."

"I hope everybody a merry Christmas and a happy new year."

Several Martin County boys have been in Korea for months, and they are counting on getting home for Christmas.

Make Plans For March Of Dimes

When Martin County citizens contribute to the 1953 March of Dimes, they have the satisfaction of knowing that their donations are financing a triple job of work, it was pointed out today by W. Marvin Baker and L. Bruce Wynne, co-directors of the Martin County drive.

"With the nation having just experienced its worst polio epidemic in history," the chairman said, "it is natural for us to review how the March of Dimes has helped the stricken."

"The contributions of the American people to this great cause enabled the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to combat polio on three wide fronts. "Since the establishment of the National Foundation," the chairman said, "some \$18,000,000 has been invested in scientific research. The result is the eventual conquest of the disease. In the field of education, more than \$16,000,000 has been allocated—making it possible for more and more skilled hands to be trained. At the same time, patient care bills amounting to \$148,000,000 have been defrayed."

Mrs. Mary Hurst Died In Hampton Late Last Friday

Funeral Held In The Biggs Funeral Chapel Here Monday Afternoon

Mrs. Mary Chrymantha Hurst died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Nellie Stevenson, in Hampton, Virginia, at 11:30 o'clock last Friday night. She had been in declining health for some time, but was critically ill only a short time.

A daughter of the late James and Emma Eliza Griffin Hoard, she was born in Poplar Point Township in this county 77 years ago on July 12, 1875, and spent most of her life there. She moved to Williamston in 1931 and made her home on West Main Street. Three weeks ago she went to Hampton to visit her daughter and was taken ill there.

She was first married in 1895 to William A. Rawls and a son, J. G. Rawls of Robersonville, survives that union. Her first husband died in 1900 and in 1909 she was married to William S. Hurst who died in 1924. Surviving that marriage are four daughters, Mrs. Laura Whitaker of Poplar Point, Mrs. Mary Emma Watson of Henderson, and Mrs. Fannie Glasgow and Mrs. Nellie Stevenson, both of Hampton; fourteen grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Hurst was a member of the Cedar Grove Free Will Baptist Church in her old home community for many years, and was held in high esteem by all who knew her.

The last rites were conducted in the Biggs Funeral Home at Williamston Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Elder William E. Grimes. Interment was in the Rawls family cemetery.

Employment Days For The Farmers

Friday will be the first of two Farm Employment days set aside by the Williamston office of the State Employment Security Commission to help farm owners and tenants get together.

From 9:00 o'clock Friday morning until 3:00 that afternoon, ESC personnel will interview farm labor seeking work and receive orders from landlords who wish to employ tenants.

After matching the orders with the applications, the workers and farm owners will be given a chance to consult each other.

The second of these Farm Employment days will be held December 12 at the same hours.

Ben Bunting On A Big Maneuver Social Security For Servicemen

Little Creek, Va.—Army Sergeant First Class Benjamin U. Bunting, whose wife, Sallie, lives in Williamston, N. C., is preparing for another large-scale maneuver after completing "Operation Sea Scape" at Little Creek, Va.

He is a member of the 278th Regimental Combat Team, stationed at Camp Drum, N. Y., which will take part in "Exercise Snow Storm" in early 1953.

"Operation Sea Scape" was a joint Army-Navy maneuver, training members of both services in the techniques of amphibious landings.

SFC Bunting, a graduate of Williamston High School, entered the Army in May 1951.

ROUND-UP

There was plenty of action on the crime front in this county last week-end, according to a report coming from the sheriff's office Monday. Eighteen persons were arrested and placed in jail during the period.

Officers Nip Series Of Robberies In Bud

NEW OFFICIAL



Jimmy C. Gurkin, Griffins Township farmer and building contractor, entered upon his duties as a member of the Martin County Board of Commissioners Monday. He, along with the other board members, remained in session a greater part of the day. Mr. Gurkin succeeds Mr. W. M. Harrison who has been experiencing declining health for several months.

Santa Claus Given Big Welcome Here

Riding a fire truck, Santa Claus came to town yesterday and received an enthusiastic welcome from Williamston's youngsters.

Main street was closed to traffic for Santa's welcome and hundreds of kiddies, their mothers and fathers, and the Green Wave Band were on hand to see that he was properly received.

Old St. Nick's visit, sponsored by the Williamston Boosters, marked the opening of the Christmas shopping season here and many merchants were busy yesterday decorating their windows and interiors for the event.

The Christmas lights were not turned on before Santa's visit, but he did not seem to notice and went right ahead waving gaily to his young fans and distributing a 1,000 tiny Christmas stockings filled with candy.

Homer Barnhill was in charge of Santa's visit and the children, six to sixty, gave him the welcome Santa always expects.

It was a chilly afternoon, but the crowds waited patiently. His mission accomplished, Santa left immediately, traveling north.

Robbers Wanted For Truck Theft

Charles Lyons and Walter Harry Davis, arrested here last week in connection with the theft of about \$800 worth of guns from Lindsley's store on Washington Street, are also wanted in Wake County for the alleged theft of a 1946 Ford truck in Raleigh on November 7. The truck was abandoned in Tarboro, and Lyons and Davis admitted the theft following their arrest here.

All the guns stolen from the local store have been recovered.

Reunited After 72 Years And Couples Of War

Pemberville, Ohio.—Seventy-two years, two generations and two wars after Mrs. Fred Nolte left Germany, she re-established contact with her sister, Charlotte Wamker of Osnabruck, Germany. A grandson, Donald F. Rabe, now of the U. S. Army in Germany, succeeded in finding his grandmother's sister.

Five Are Jailed During Weekend On Theft Charges

Filling Station Near Hamilton Entered Last Friday Night

Alert Martin County officers nipped in the bud a series of robberies and thefts during the past week-end. Five persons, including two young white boys, have been jailed and warrants are pending in one or two other cases, Deputy Raymond Rawls said.

Pete Pritchard and Bryant Scott, 18-year-old white boys, were arrested Saturday afternoon and formally charged with the robbery of Earl Jones' filling station near Hamilton late the night before. Deputy Rawls said that the robberies carried away eight cartons of cigarettes, fifty pennies, three boxes of chewing gum, four crates of soft drinks and other items valued at about \$25. The officer, assisted by Constable Pete Leggett of Hamilton and ABC Officer Clyde Basey of Scotland Neck in working up the case, said the robberies prized away the iron bars over a window and entered the station.

Pritchard's old vehicle had a flat tire about 100 yards down the road from the station, and the officers picked up a lead there. When Pritchard was arrested in Palmira he had some of the missing goods on his person. Scott also had some of the stolen goods on his person and in his car, Officer Rawls said.

Invading Farmer Gentry Mills' barn in Poplar Point Township last Saturday night, W. T. Coburn, colored man, carried away four bags of corn. One of the bags had a hole in it, and officers followed the stray corn to Coburn's home without much trouble. Deputy Rawls and Officers Dallas Holliday and Chas. R. Moore closed the case against Coburn.

Believed to have baited them with corn, Bennie James Boston and Nathaniel Boston killed two of Lewis Lee's nice hogs over in Williams Township Saturday afternoon and were cutting them up in a barn on the Roberson farm when Sheriff M. W. Holloman and Officer Dallas Holliday closed in on them about 6:00 o'clock that evening. After luring the hogs a safe distance from the owner, the Bostons killed them with a bullet rifle and were making ready to pack them down when the officers interrupted them. The two hogs were valued at about \$75.

The Bostons were allowed to give \$150 bonds each and they are to appear for trial in the Martin County Recorder's Court next Saturday.

The week-end robberies followed the \$800 drive on Lindsley's store the early part of last week. That robbery has been solved also. Formally charged with the robbery, the three men are to go on trial in superior court next week.