

## County Citizens Give 130 Pints Of Their Blood Here

### 136 Persons Volunteer To Donate When Red Cross Unit Makes Its Stop

The Martin County Chapter went ten pints over its 120-pint quota for the one-day stop of the American Red Cross bloodmobile here last Thursday. It was pointed out that drop-ins during the day put the collection over the top, for many who had pledged to give a pint of blood found it necessary to cancel their appointments at the last minute.

One hundred and thirty-six volunteers went to the headquarters set up in the American Legion hut on South Watts Street, and 130 of them were found physically fit to donate blood for use in treating American wounded and for civilians in various hospitals here at home.

Blood collected by the Red Cross mobile unit is processed through a network of regional and defense blood centers and is sent on to combat areas or hospitals for the use of the ill and the wounded.

A substitution is maintained for this area in the hospital at Windsor and blood can be made available in a matter of minutes to meet emergencies.

Volunteer workers who helped with the clerical and clinical tasks at the blood center here last Thursday were, Mrs. V. J. Spivey and Mrs. H. B. Wyatt at the check-off table; Mrs. J. Paul Simpson, Mrs. T. B. Brandon, Sr., Mrs. Parker Peele and Mrs. J. H. Saunders, Jr., registrars; Mrs. R. W. Bondurant, Mrs. Tom Skinner, Mrs. L. T. Fowden, Sr., Miss Mary Taylor, Mrs. William E. Decato and Mrs. J. B. Glenn, who checked temperatures and served orange juice; and Mrs. Frank Weaver, who served as typist.

Others who helped were Mrs. Urbin Rogers, Mrs. Bruce Wynne, and Mrs. D. R. Davis at the bottle tables; Mrs. W. I. Skinner, Mrs. Henry Griffin, Mrs. A. L. Jameson and Mrs. H. H. Cowen, hostesses; Mrs. Effie Sparrow, who served lunch and Mrs. W. O. Griffin, canteen chairman. Serving in the canteen were Mrs. Bill Sessoms, Mrs. Joe G. Corey, Mrs. John R. Peele, Mrs. George Peele, Mrs. A. R. Dunning, Mrs. T. E. Forehand and Mrs. Edward Corey. Transportation was in charge of Mrs. I. M. Margolis, Mrs. V. E. Brown and Mrs. W. R. Glover.

Those volunteering to give blood included: Mrs. H. P. Mobley, Robert H. Cowen, H. B. Holloman, Dorothy (Continued on page eight)

## Four Are Named To Scout Posts

K. P. Lindsley of Williamston was elected an area vice-president at the annual business session of the East Carolina Council, Boy Scouts of America, held last Wednesday at East Carolina College in Greenville.

The election of officers, executive board members and council members at large followed a modified training and inspirational program presided over by W. C. Chadwick, president, of New Bern.

V. B. Hairr of Jamesville was one of the district chairmen named to membership on the executive board of the council, and Kelly Gay of Williamston also was elected to the executive board.

C. B. Martin of Robersonville was chosen a council member-at-large in the election.

### ROUND-UP

Eleven persons were arrested and temporarily detained in the county jail last week-end.

Two were booked each for larceny, public drunkenness, and violating the liquor laws, and one each for drunken driving, assault with a deadly weapon, issuing a worthless check, and reckless driving. Two of the eleven were white and the ages of the group ranged from 16 to 56 years.

## Local Elector Casts Ballot For the Democratic Ticket

The action was little more than a mere formality and attracted little public attention, but Clarence Griffin, Williamston attorney, went all the way down the line as First Congressional District Elector, and with thirteen other electors supported the Democratic national ticket in Raleigh at noon Monday.

The names of the electors were not on the ticket, but they were duly elected last November 4, and following the mandate of the people, the fourteen electors in this State went to Raleigh to vote for Adlai Stevenson for President and John Sparkman for Vice President. The electors were sworn in by Chief Justice Wm. A. Devin and the group elected W. T. Joyner chairman who called

for nominations. Dr. John D. Robinson nominated for President and Luke Lamb nominated Sparkman for Vice President. All fourteen electors voted accordingly and the votes are being certified to the Secretary of the United States Senate who will canvass the vote for the nation there on January 6.

Annexing 89 votes in the nation, the Democratic ticket got its largest block of votes in this State.

Commenting on the election following his return from Raleigh, Elector Griffin said only a few people gathered in the hall of the House of Representatives to witness the event. There were two or three newspapermen and a few other interested citizens, but the system has lost itself in antiquity, Mr. Griffin declared.

### FARM HELP

Martin county farmers are urged by officials of the local Employment Security Commission to take advantage of the commission's services in seeking tenants for their farms next year.

Staff members pointed out that the services of the bureau were available to those seeking help as well as to those wishing employment next year.

Hours are from 8 until 5 Monday through Friday at the offices on Main Street in Williamston.

## State Employees Organized Here

State employees of Martin, Bertie and Washington counties organized themselves into the Tri-County chapter of the State Employees Association at a meeting held in the Martin County Court-house last Tuesday night.

E. Ross Froneberger, of Williamston was named chairman of the organization, and Tom Perry of Plymouth was named vice-chairman. Mrs. Elizabeth H. Van Landingham of Williamston was elected secretary.

The organization is to promote representation of state employees before the North Carolina General Assembly and to present an organized program of education and information regarding state employ problems and activities to the state's citizens and news media.

P. B. Pollock, area supervisor of the North Carolina Employment Security Commission, presided over the meeting and presented the facts regarding the purpose, history and background of the organization.

A. J. Cox, representative of the retirement system for state employees, explained the plan to the group and presented them pamphlets regarding it. Bill Woolard, Washington county's state representative, also was present and spoke briefly to the group.

Members of the staff of the Williamston offices of the Employment Security Commission served refreshments to the 30 persons present from the three counties.

## Native Of County Dies In Beaufort

Willie Gray Corey, native of this county, died at his home in Washington Friday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock following a critical illness of three days and an extended period of declining health.

A son of the late Henry and Christine Stallings Corey, he was born in Griffiths Township 82 years ago, but spent most of his life in Beaufort County, engaging in farming in the Stalling Cross Roads Community. He was a member of the church at Smithwick's Creek in this county for many years.

Surviving are two sons, Hanis Corey with whom he had made his home in Washington since 1930, and Henry Ottis Corey of Baltimore.

Funeral services were conducted in the Paul Funeral Home in Washington Sunday afternoon, interment was in the family cemetery at Stallings Cross Roads, Beaufort County.

## Wild Chase Over The Streets Here Saturday Evening

### Speeder Leads Officers In 20-Minute Run And Crashes Block

A wild chase centered on most of the streets here last Saturday evening was brought to an end by members of the highway patrol, police and special officers following twenty minutes of reckless and dangerous driving. Only after establishing a second street block were officers able to end the wild drive.

Patrolling U. S. Highway 17 early Saturday evening, Patrolman George Medlin stopped W. G. Brewer, young white man, for speeding in Beaufort County. Brewer, not denying the charge at the time, explained that while shopping in Washington he had received a call advising him that his wife was critically ill in the Williamston hospital. Driving a pick-up truck, Brewer gave his name as Brooks. Accepting the statement at its face value, Patrolman Medlin did not ask to see the man's driver's license, and told Brewer that he would lead him to Williamston.

"I noticed he was lagging far behind me, and I decided to let him go ahead," Patrolman Medlin said. Brewer, taking the lead, traveled about 50 to 55 miles an hour until he reached and crashed the stop light at the corner of Main and Haughton Streets. He increased his speed north on Haughton to Grace, and off Grace north on Smithwick to Liberty, continuing toward the hospital.

"I was suspicious of his actions, but I was ready to give him the advantage of the doubt," Patrolman Medlin said. When Brewer reached Lee Street at the Chas. H. Godwin home, he made a left turn, and the chase was on at a furious pace. Patrolman Medlin radioed for help. Cpl. M. C. Byrum, Patrolman J. O. Arthur, local officers and Special Officer Dallas Holliday answered the call. Street blocks were set up at the corner of Watts and Beech Streets while Patrolman Medlin trailed Brewer, the officers stating that he pulled up beside Brewer one time and was almost forced into the curb before he could drop back. Finally, Brewer, traveling as fast as 60 miles an hour at (Continued on Page Eight)

## Steals Wardrobe From His Friend

Posing as a friend and after enjoying a free night's lodging, Willie Johnson, Georgia colored man who had been working in this section for a few months, returned to the home of Andrew Stille on East Main Street here last Saturday afternoon and cleaned out Stille's complete wardrobe.

Living alone, Stille was at work when Johnson returned there about 3:00 o'clock, Johnson explaining to neighbors that Stille had sent him for clothes. Going through a window, Johnson took two suits of clothes, one right new, and overcoat and pajamas. He traded off one suit for taxi fare to Robersonville. Officers have been unable to pick up his trail there.

## Reduces Life Term Of J. R. Coltraine To Twenty Years

### Apparent Political Action Came As Surprise To Many People

Sentenced at the March, 1949, term of Martin County Superior Court, to life imprisonment for the murder of W. T. Roberson on January 26 of that year, John R. Coltraine has had his term commuted to twenty years, according to unofficial reports reaching here.

Overriding the advice of both his present and former parole commissioners, and acting against the definite opposition offered by Judge Chester Morris, trial jurist, and without conferring with Solicitor George Fountain, Governor W. Kerr Scott last week opened the way for a possible parole in May, 1949.

Apparently bogged down in politics and pressure, the action came as a surprise to many people in this county. It was known that work was being done in behalf of the condemned man, but under the conditions, including the time factor, no developments were anticipated this early.

The unofficial report from Raleigh reads, as follows: "For John R. Coltraine, 64, the Governor's more raised the possibility of a parole as early as May of 1954. Coltraine got his life sentence in the spring of 1949 after a jury convicted him of first degree murder but recommended mercy. Scott last week cut his sentence to twenty years as he commuted the terms of eight prisoners.

In Poor Health Last March 13, ousted Parole Commissioner T. C. Johnson turned down an appeal for clemency for the ailing Coltraine. "He has served less than three years of a life sentence," Johnson wrote then. "The fact that he is in poor health, as we see the matter, does not justify clemency at this time. There are many other prisoners who are similarly situated. Although this man has a lot of friends in Martin County, there is also considerable feeling against him there."

The man Johnson was writing to was Durham lawyer J. Elmer Long who had been retained by the Coltraine children. Long served as Governor Scott's liaison man with the 1949 General Assembly.

Last August 12 Johnson's successor, (Continued on Page Seven)

## Jno. H. Saunders Dies In Kinston

John Hyde (Jack) Saunders, brother of J. McKimmon Saunders of Williamston, died in Kinston late Sunday afternoon after a short illness. He was 77. Mr. Saunders was well known in this section, having served on the Plymouth branch of the Atlantic Coast Line as an engineer for a number of years. He was a native of Beaufort County but had spent most of his life in Kinston where he was an active member of the State College Alumni Association.

He survived by his wife, Mrs. Bessie Wooten Saunders; a daughter, Launa Faulkner Daucy of Kinston; and two grandsons and a brother, J. M. Saunders, of Washington, Mr. Saunders retired from the railroad service in 1942 after spending close to 40 years with the Coast Line. Funeral services were held Monday at 2 p. m. at Tyndall-Wood-Jarman Funeral Home with burial in Maplewood Cemetery.

## Firemen Called Out On Saturday

Firemen were called out here last Saturday evening at 7:45 o'clock when a chimney blazed out in the home of Mrs. Della Cowen on West Main Street. Firemen checked the sparks and reported no damage.

The call came when the evening traffic was just about at its peak and travel was snarled for a short time.

Several calls to burning chimneys and over-heated stoves were received by the local department last week, but only one general alarm was sounded.

## Forty Four Men Leave Tomorrow To Take Tests

### Receive Their Call For Pre-Induction Exams Into Armed Forces

Forty-four Martin County men will board a charter bus tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock and leave for Raleigh where they will take their preliminary examinations for induction into the armed services.

Of 49 men called for pre-induction tests at this time, six have been transferred to boards in other states and one has been moved to this board from La Grange, Ga. Thirty-one of this group are colored men and nineteen are white.

Names of those scheduled to take the examinations are as follows:

White Bennie Augustus Moore, Franklin Garner Harrison, James Robert Coltraine, John Connell, Jr., James Patrick Wynne, Walter Elliott Harris, Leonard Roosevelt Roberson, James Robert Williams, Kader Wilson Ward, William David James, Benjamin Hassell Moore, James Simon Rogerson, Robert Benton Stevens, Seth Bridgeman Perry, David Daniel Scott, Bobby Delano Lilley, William Henry Harrell, Hubert Gordon Hopkins, and James Taylor Bullock.

### Colored

Paul Baker, Jr., Fernie Albert-deen Ramsey, Robert Fleming, Jr., Willie Clyde Brown, Louis Edward Lee, Haywood Woodrow Howell, Nathan Sherman Staton, Joe Purvis, Jr., Horace Lyons, James Earl Everett, William Henry Clemons, Joseph James Cross, Frank Purvis, James Langston, Sandy Primes Brown, Riley Brown, James Webb, Leo Long, Arthur Edward Lloyd, Thurman Rodgers, Edon Alston, Melvin Brown, George Thelma Harris, James Earl Lee, Willie Clarence Price, Joseph Howard Corey, James Earl Rodgers, John Williams, Charles Augustus Lloyd, Carl Maceo Slade, Robert Lee Alford.

## Two Youths Have Short Joy Rides

Taking the fence apart, Joe Lewis Knight, 17, and Oscar Moore, 14, "borrowed" a pick-up truck from the R. L. Ward Wood and Coal Company's yard on Pearl Street last Wednesday night, but the joy ride was short.

The boys, both completing their education about the fifth grade in school, said they had not driven far before the machine was wrecked at the intersection of Haughton and Academy Streets shortly after 10:00 o'clock that night. Said to have been driving the truck at the time, Knight attempted to turn into Academy Street, lost control and crashed into a pick-up truck parked at the side of Academy Street at the home of Mrs. W. E. Warren. Mr. Ward estimated the damage to his machine at about \$65.

Vigorously denying any connection with the theft, the two boys finally admitted to Officer Chas. Moore that they took the truck. They denied any knowledge of a hit-and-run strike near the Pentecostal Holiness Church on North Haughton Street a short time before the crash on Academy Street.

Carried before Justice Chas. Mobley Thursday evening, the two boys were charged with larceny, operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, careless and reckless driving, and hit-and-run driving. Bond was fixed in the sum of \$300. Knight arranged bond, but Moore was returned to jail when he could make no bond arrangements.

## Skewarkey Lodge Elects Its Officers

In their regular meeting last Tuesday evening, Skewarkey Masons elected officers for the new year.

Ernest P. Capps was elected master, succeeding George Hutton Gurganus. John E. Manning was elected to succeed Mr. Capps as senior warden, and R. Vernon Bunting was named to succeed Mr. Manning as junior warden. Vernon Jerome Spivey was re-elected treasurer, and Julian H. Harrell is succeeding himself as secretary of the lodge.

## Minister To Speak To Woman's Club

The Rev. Gordon Conklin, pastor of the Williamston Baptist Church will speak during the Christmas program of the Woman's Club at its regular meeting tonight.

The public has been invited to attend the club's program which begins at 8:30 following the business session at 8:00 o'clock. Members of the club are urged to attend both the business and program session.

## P.-M.A. Committees Farmers Will Elect

### Nominees Named At Meetings In County Recently

#### Delegates Will Elect A County Committee Next Friday

Going to their various community voting places on Wednesday of this week, Martin County farmers will elect their P. M. A. local committees and name delegates to the county convention to be held Friday in the agricultural building. The voting hours will be from 9:00 a. m. until 6:00 p. m.

Nominees were named at nominating conventions held throughout the county last week, and from that group the farmers will elect their committees and county convention delegates and alternates on Wednesday of this week. Fair-sized crowds were reported at most of the nominating conventions but several of the meetings were said to have been poorly attended.

In addition to electing the community committees and delegates to the county convention, farmers will be asked to vote on a supervisor for Martin County for the Coastal Plain Soil Conservation District. Mr. C. Abram Roberson has been nominated for the post and his name will appear on a special ballot.

The elections will be held as follows: Jamesville 1 and 2—Town House, Jamesville.

Williams—County House. Griffins—Jim Manning's Store. Bear Grass—LeRoy Harrison's garage.

Williamston-Poplar Point—Agriculture building. Cross Roads—Taylor's Filling station.

Robersonville 1 and 2—Masonic Hall, Robersonville. Hamilton—P. C. Edmondson's store, Hassell, and Town House, Hamilton.

Goose Nest 1 and 2—J. H. Ayers' store, Oak City. The following persons were nominated at the conventions held last week:

Jamesville I—For community committee, Paul Barber, Carl Griffin, Howard Harrison, Harry Jones, Wendell Modlin, Arnold Modlin, Carroll Modlin, Jay Coltraine, Edwin Mzelle and Archie Barber; for delegates and alternates to the county convention, Herbert Sexton, Carl Griffin and Howard Harrison.

Jamesville II—For community committee, Arthur Ange, David Ange, Seth Davis, Hosea Fagan, D. D. Coburn, P. M. Ange, James Long, Clarence Sexton and Edward Ange; for delegate and alternates to the county convention, Dan Fagan, Elmer Modlin and Leo Gardner.

Williams—For community committee, (Continued on Page Eight)

## Father Of Local Resident Passes

Stewart Lewis, father of Mrs. Bernard Harrison of Williamston, died at his home in Roper Saturday morning after a short illness.

The son of Mrs. Mary Virginia Lewis, and the late Samuel H. Lewis, he was born in Washington County 56 years ago, and was employed by the North Carolina Pulp Company a number of years. He was a member of the Roper Episcopal Church and was a vestryman.

Funeral services were held in Roper Sunday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock by the Rev. E. M. Spruill. Interment was in the Windley Cemetery near Plymouth.

Surviving besides his daughter in Williamston, and his widow, the former Miss Lillian Peacock, are his mother; two daughters, Mrs. Marcia Lewis of Garnett, Kansas, Mrs. Jaqueline Hopkins of Plymouth; three sisters, Mrs. Olive Brickhouse of Columbia, Mrs. Janice Nowarah of Roper, Erma Lewis of Kinston; three brothers, Harry and George of Roper and Harold of Bridgeton, of Bridgeton.

### NATIVITY SCENE

Williamston's Nativity scene which in years past has received national acclaim has been erected on the lawn of the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street again.

A committee of Jaycees spent several nights last week repairing the figures and background of the scene given to the civic organization by German prisoners of war when they were returned to their homeland after they had been camped here.

Jaycee members who set up the scene and handled special lighting effects, were Thad Harrison, Edgar Garganus, Chief Mangum, Blue Manning, Rueben Williams and Pete Rogers.

## Freedomgrams Dropped In State

Flying low, two Civil Air Patrol planes dropped several thousand Freedomgrams over the town last Saturday afternoon (leaflet) gliding to earth before a west wind with a message, urging Martin County citizens to contribute to the Crusade of Freedom. The operation here was part of a state-wide "bombing" by 100 planes of the Civil Air Patrol. A quarter million of the leaflets were dropped in 178 towns and cities in the State.

The Freedomgrams are a feature of the 1952 Crusade for Freedom being headed in North Carolina this year by President Gordon Gray of the Consolidated University of North Carolina.

At the conclusion of Saturday's activities, President Gray sent a message of congratulations and thanks to the Civil Air Patrol.

Officially the campaign in this State is scheduled to close Sunday, but contributions will continue to be welcomed, Robert Viall, State director, said. Contributions headed by Professor Carlyle Cox in this county may be sent to local chairmen or addressed to Crusade for Freedom in care of local postmasters.

President Gray, in a statement today, urged all citizens to respond to the current appeal. He pointed out that the two previous campaigns have been so successful that 13 transmitters have been established in Free Europe and three in Free Asia for the purpose of penetrating the Iron Curtain.

There is ample evidence that this program is proving highly effective in getting the truth about America to the people in the totalitarian nations, he said.

The plan now is to set up additional transmitters in Europe and Asia, he added. "This program gives each individual an opportunity to share in the effort to secure by combating the false propaganda of Communism," he said.

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## Series Of Wrecks On The Highways In Martin County

### One Reported Injured But Property Loss Goes Above \$1,100

No one was reported injured but the property loss jumped well above the \$1,100 figure in a series of at least eight motor vehicle accidents on the highways and streets in this county last week-end.

Following a \$450 accident Wednesday in Jamesville, the first in the new series of wrecks was reported at the intersection of Highway 64 and the Prison Camp Road near Williamston Thursday afternoon at 2:45 o'clock. Mrs. Annie Mobley Hopkins of Everetts was driving west and stopped for oncoming traffic to make a left turn with her 1946 Ford. Seaman Herbert Wilson, Philadelphia man stationed on the U. S. S. Macon was following in a 1949 Mercury and crashed into the rear of the Ford. Investigating the accident, Cpl. M. C. Byrum and Patrolman B. W. Parker said no one was hurt and that damage amounted to about \$75 on the Ford and \$100 on the Mercury.

Driving north on Highway 17, Whitmel G. Summers was making a left turn into the Ross Motel at 9:15 o'clock Thursday night when Willie Lilley started to pass in a 1940 Ford, striking Summer's Buick in the side. No one was injured. Damage to the Buick was estimated at \$75 and that to the Ford at \$50, according to Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation.

William Earl Sheppard did not turn when he reached the old Robersonville-Everetts highway at the Garner House home and plowed into Farmer House's fence, ripping down about \$35 worth and doing about \$50 damage to his 1947 Ford about 9:30 o'clock last Friday night. Patrolman B. W. Parker made the investigation.

At 10:20 o'clock that night, Raymond Lee Roberson, white man of Conctoe, was speeding from Spring Green into Gold Point and lost control of his 1950 Hudson. After skidding 150 feet on the right shoulder, the car swerved sixty feet down and across the highway into a stump, coming to a stop thirty feet farther down the street. He was not injured, but damage to his car was estimated at \$300 by Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation.

An eight-month-old heifer belonging to Nathaniel Boston was hit by two cars and killed on Highway 64 a short distance east of Highway 90 between Williamston and Jamesville about 1:00 o'clock last Saturday morning. (Continued on Page Seven)

## Special Program Here Tomorrow

Christmas will be the theme of a program by the Williamston High School Glee Club and the Green Wave band Wednesday night in the high school auditorium.

The first half of the program will begin at 8:30 to avoid conflict with prayer services at the town's churches and will be in charge of the Glee Club directed by Miss Mary Wallace Foy. Janice Manning and Jean Mobley will sing solos in the vocal division of the program.

The band, under the direction of Jack F. Butler, will present selections of traditional and modern Christmas music in the last half of the program. Among the numbers will be "Chorale" by Bach and "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin.

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