

## Two Taxi Drivers Attend Hearing At Meeting Of Board

### Plea To Retain Operators Licenses Taken Under Advisement

Declaring they were victims of circumstances and that their own misunderstanding created a problem, John Reddick, 31, and Charlie Joyner, 50, local taxi drivers, directed an earnest plea to local town commissioners at a special hearing Tuesday night in an effort to retain their taxi franchises. The taxi operators, through their attorney, Elbert S. Peel, frankly discussed the issue, admitting they were convicted in the Martin County Recorder's Court last spring for alleged liquor law violations. They went on to explain their predicaments and freely answered numerous questions. Following the hearing which lasted the better part of an hour, the board discussed the pleas and took the matter under advisement with a promise that a decision will be announced at the next regular meeting in February.

Taking the stand, Reddick explained that he had been driving a taxi here four and one-half years, that he had had no trouble during that period. Explaining the court conviction last spring, Reddick maintained that it was a question of mistaken identity. Reddick pointed out that an undercover agent for the State ABC Board approached him twice last spring, that he (Reddick) refused to have any dealing with a sale or handle liquor in any manner. Robert Small, another taxi driver, overheard the conversation and voluntarily offered his services. When the round-up came a few weeks later, Reddick said he was arrested instead of Small.

From that point on the case became more and more complicated. Reddick said he went into court and pleaded not guilty. The State offered its evidence, and Reddick did not take the stand, explaining that he did not want to expose Small. He then explained that he thought it best to go ahead and pay the fine and cost and forget all about it. During the meantime, he learned that the conviction would cost him his operator's license. He immediately gave notice of appeal to the superior court where it dragged along for two terms. Finally, Judge Clawson Williams ruled him out of court and he had no place else to turn except to a hearing before the board.

Robert Small, taking the stand in behalf of Reddick, admitted that he was later caught and convicted on liquor charges and that he was ousted as a taxi driver. He supported Reddick's evidence and told the commissioners that when he heard the agent offer Reddick \$4 for a pint of liquor, he volunteered his services when Reddick refused to act.

"The agent told me he was just back from overseas, and since I had been overseas, too, I thought I would accommodate the man," Small said, admitting that the \$4 consideration was an important factor in the deal. Small, possessor of a good reputation along with Reddick, stressed the fact that he had never sold but two pints of liquor in his life.

That was the case for Reddick, and it was fairly apparent that some of the commissioners sympathized with the plea.

Joyner's case, very similar to Reddick's case, originated under a (Continued on page eight)

## Last-Minute Rush Is In The Making

With just a little more than one week left, a last-minute rush is developing at the tax listing offices and at the State automobile license bureau here, according to late reports coming from Tax List Taker C. M. Cobb at the town treasurer's office and N. K. Harrison of the license bureau in the offices of Harrison and Carstarphen.

Less than two-thirds of the property owners in this township have listed their holdings, Mr. Cobb said. According to Mr. Harrison there are still approximately 3,000 tags to be sold if all motor vehicles in this section are to be properly tagged on and after February 1.

## Western Union Rebuilding Its Circuits In This Section

For the first time in sixty-seven years, the Western Union Telegraph Company has rebuilt its pole line and circuits in this section, workmen having completed the seldom-handled task a few days ago. While the company was stringing new circuits of its own, it put up new wires for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company. Better service for the company's patrons in this section is now assured.

The first lines were built in 1886 and limited repairs have been made from time to time. Many of the poles in the line had been cut off and rebuilt down through the years until the wires were hardly more than six or eight feet above the ground in spots. New poles were set in the line from Parmele to Williams-ton last year and from Williams-

### PTA TO MEET

The Williamston Parent-Teacher Association will hold its monthly meeting Monday night at 7:45 o'clock in the high school auditorium. Feature of the meeting will be a film provided by the State Board of Education officers. The executive board of the PTA will meet at 7:00 o'clock in the offices of the principal.

## Gets Assignments In The Assembly

A. Corey, Martin County representative in the North Carolina Legislature, has been assigned to ten committees in the House by Speaker Bost, the assignments including a place on the major finance committee. He was named vice chairman of the buildings and grounds committee, and is a member of the committee on agriculture, conservation and development, finance, health, journal, public welfare, enrolled bills and library.

## In Court Again For An Assault

James Bell, local young colored man who was recently cleared for attacking a man with a brick, is back in court again for an assault. Walking into the Crystal Grill pool room on Washington Street about 9:15 o'clock last Tuesday night, Bell, not too long off the roads, attacked William Haywood Bonds. Breaking away from the man, Bonds ducked several pool balls before Bell started moving on him with a knife. As Bell approached, Bonds broke a cue stick over his head, stopping the attacker until police could make the arrest.

Given a hearing before Justice Charles R. Mobley, Bell was placed under a \$150 bond and is to be tried in the county court next Monday.

## Christmas Gift Goes The Rounds

Giving his friend, Cager Perry, a carton of cigarettes with a \$20 bill concealed in the box, Elmo Lilley was surprised to learn a few days later that Archie Griffin had found a bill of the same denomination in a carton of cigarettes he had bought. Making a casual investigation, Mr. Lilley learned that Mr. Perry had traded the gift carton of cigarettes at the Farmers Supply Company store here for another carton of his choice. The \$20 bill still held to its secret hiding place until Mr. Griffin came along and bought the carton that had been offered in exchange for another, and he found the \$20 bill. So, after going the rounds, the Christmas gift finally was received by Mr. Perry.

## Relief Fund For Law Enforcement Groups Proposed

With no social security or established fund of their own, peace officers in this county are sponsoring a relief plan by the legislative route. A few days ago, Representative A. Corey dropped Bill No. 26 into the legislative hopper of the State House of Representatives. The terms and provisions of the bill are explained by the legislative service division of the Institute of Government, as follows:

"To create a peace officers' relief fund for the county of Martin." (Sets up Martin County Peace Officers' Association, including as potential members all peace officers in Martin County and State Highway Patrolmen. Eligible persons must apply for membership, pay an initiation fee of not more than \$2, and annual dues, both to be set by a 5-member executive board elected annually by the Association. Special officers or deputized citizens must be given reasonable time from date of appointment, not to exceed 30 days, to apply for membership. Martin County treasurer is designated ex-officio association treasurer. Final determination is made by executive board of eligible persons and amount of benefits payable to (1) members injured or sick while on duty; (2) widows and children, or dependent mothers, of members dying from injuries or disease incurred while on duty; (3) members who grow old in line of duty; and (4) persons injured while acting as peace officers. Prohibits court action against association to enforce claims or recover benefits under this law or association constitution and by-laws (which must be adopted). A \$1 fee is to be collected as part of costs in all criminal actions in Martin County in which defendant (1) enters a plea of nolo contendere; (2) enters a plea of guilty; or (3) is adjudged guilty by a jury. Fees are to be turned over monthly to association treasurer who must make annual financial report. Accumulated funds are not subject to state, county, or municipal taxation and may be invested in securities or bonds unanimously approved by board, income to be added to principal. Executive board is authorized to accept gifts and to set up group insurance plan to cover death or disability of members, premiums to be paid from association funds. Officers and executive board members serve without compensation.) Referred to Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement committee.

## District Leader Speaks to Women

A constant translation of Americanism and America's heritage is needed in daily living, Mrs. J. G. Brickhouse, Woman's Club leader from Columbia, told the Williamston club members here Tuesday night. As guest of the local club, Mrs. Brickhouse, who is president of the fifteenth district of the state Federation of Women's Clubs, outlined why the federation is sponsoring a project entitled "American Heritage" this year. She pointed out that many adults have reached maturity without realizing what being an American means and that many adolescents were growing up today without the slightest understanding of their country, its principles and its government. Purpose of the federation's "American Heritage" project, she said, is to bring before the women the need for investigating their children's study of history and government, for looking into their own activities as citizens, and for brushing up on their knowledge of America's background and government.

As an incentive in the American Heritage project, Mrs. Brickhouse reported a prize is to be awarded the club presenting the five best reasons for America's greatness. Mrs. Brickhouse was presented a corsage of pink carnations from club members at the opening of the meeting in the Woman's Club. Business action by the club included a decision to buy new locks for the club building and to sponsor two bridge parties February 13.

Mrs. Ben Williams and Mrs. Jay Griffin were approved for membership after presentation of their names by Mrs. Irving Margolis. Mrs. Ernest Carraway, president, read letters of appreciation from two institutions to which the club had mailed Christmas packages. Hot tea and cookies were served at the close of the meeting by the hostesses, Mrs. A. L. Jameson, Mrs. N. C. Green and Miss Marjorie Lindsley.

## Break Window In Barbershop Here

While tussling on Washington Street here early last Tuesday evening, Ernest Roberts and Duke Gardner fell against and broke the large plate glass window in Guy Thomas' barbershop next to the City Pool Room. As far as it could be learned, no one was cut. No one was in the shot at the time. The young men were quoted as saying they would repair the damage.

## Hog Killings Are About Completed

Started back in November, hog killings have been advanced on an extensive scale during recent days and are now almost completed in this county, according to reports reaching here today. Experiencing a weak market for their live hogs, most Martin farmers this season killed and packed more meat for home consumption, the action pointing to a greater supply of cured hames for the home market in the months to come.

## Twelve Cases In County's Court Monday Morning

### Judge H. O. Peele Has A Single Civil Case In His Court

Judge Herbert O. Peel handled one civil and twelve criminal cases in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday during a session lasting until 1:00 o'clock. Solicitor Clarence Griffin prosecuted the docket. Most of the cases were contested. Drunken drivers led the docket. One, when adjudged guilty and fined, appealed to the superior court. Fines were imposed in the amount of \$475.

Proceedings: Pleading not guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon and being drunk and disorderly, Leo Townes was adjudged guilty on the latter count and drew a 30-day road sentence. The court suspended the road term for one year upon the payment of the costs.

Pleading not guilty, Will Roberson, charged with drunken driving, was adjudged guilty. He was fined \$100, taxes with the cost and loses his driver's license for a year. He gave notice of appeal and bond was required in the sum of \$100. Charged with drunken driving, Alex Crumpler pleaded not guilty. He was found guilty and was fined \$100, plus costs. He loses his operator's license for one year.

Charged with speeding seventy miles an hour, Alfred Watson Wheatley was found not guilty. Leo Long, pleading not guilty, was adjudged guilty of careless and reckless driving and drew sixty days on the roads. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of the court costs, and he is to surrender his driver's license for six months. Pleading not guilty, Jesse L. Brown was adjudged guilty of drunken driving and was sentenced to the roads for ninety days. The road sentence was suspended upon the payment of the usual \$100 fine and court costs. He also loses his license to drive a motor vehicle. (Continued on page eight)

### FIRST APPEARANCE

Recently organized under the direction of Mrs. Don Carson, Jamesville High School Band last Thursday night made its first public appearance, playing several selections at the regular monthly meeting of the parent-teacher association held in the school auditorium in Jamesville. And the newly organized and youthful musicians did all right, it was reported.

Following the band program, Mrs. Clyde Manning and Mrs. John Carson, members of the faculty, talked about citizenship in observance of National Citizenship Week.

## Farm Labor Shortage Said To Be Serious In the County

The farm labor shortage, worsening over a period of years, is said to be nearing a crucial point in this county, according to reports reaching here from more than half of the townships. Some acreage has been left idle in years past, but there are large farms without a single tenant family and poor prospects for relief in the open labor market.

One report said that eight farms were vacant on a single farm in the upper part of the county with no contracts pending with any one to fill them. Day labor on farms is believed to be at a new low point. As a general rule, there is much moving among the farm population, but the action centered in the exchange of places. This season, many families moved and simply disappeared. Quite a few have gone to defense centers and industrial areas, and others are retiring from the farm, taking residence with relatives in the towns. However, it has not been learned just where all of the tenants are establishing themselves for the current year.

## Investigates Two Deaths In County

Two sudden deaths among the colored population in this county were investigated in recent days by Coroner Wm. W. Biggs who ruled death was due to natural causes and no formal inquests were considered necessary.

The first of the deaths was reported in Hamilton last Saturday evening about 6:30 o'clock when James Wiggins, 54, apparently suffered a heart attack and died on the back porch of a neighbor's home there.

Willie Robert Evans, well-known Negro farmer of near Williamston, died of a heart attack at his home at noon Tuesday. Going home from his farm work at noon, Evans, 68, complained with a pain in his chest. Finishing the meal, he told his wife that he was going to complete the preparation of his tobacco bed. He backed his car out of the yard, suffered a heart attack and died at the steering wheel.

Evans, a well-known farmer and builder, was the son of the late Robert and Florence Evans. He is survived by his wife, seven children, eleven grandchildren and a brother. Funeral services will be conducted Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Black Swamp church.

## Mrs. Osborne's Funeral Today

Funeral services are being held this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mrs. Emma Addie Osborne, a resident of this county for many years who died at the home of her son, James Robert Osborne, in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, last Sunday night at 9:00 o'clock. The Rev. Wilbur Wallace, Christian minister, and the Rev. R. E. Ferguson, Baptist minister, are conducting the service in the Robersonville Christian Church, and interment will be in the Robersonville Cemetery.

Mrs. Osborne is survived by two sons, James Robert Osborne of Fitchburg, Mass., and Charles Osborne of Washington, D. C.; one daughter, Mrs. Alma Daniels, of San Diego, Calif. She was a member of the Oak Grove Christian Church for many years.

## Miss Harrison On College Faculty

Miss Martha Harrison, daughter of Mrs. D. B. Harrison of Palmyra and the late Mr. Harrison of this county, and the niece of Mrs. Della Green of Williamston, has been named interim instructor in business education at Coker College, South Carolina, officials of the institution announced this week.

Miss Harrison entered upon her new duties last Monday, opening date of the second and last semester of the school year. She replaces Mrs. Jeanne Wilhelm, who was granted a leave of absence for the remainder of the year. Miss Harrison was recently graduated with the B. S. degree from Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. She also holds a diploma from the University of Oslo, Norway, and studied at Wake Forest College.

ATTEND CLINIC Persons from Williamston and Jamesville were among those who attended the Cancer Detection Clinic in Rocky Mount a few days ago.

## Secretary Dulles Planning Trip To India This Spring

### Excess Profits Tax Certain To Die At Hands Of The Republicans

Washington.—The new Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, will approach the Asian policies of the new administration with more than detached interest. His plan, according to the latest report, is to personally visit several Asian countries this spring and see what he can do toward lining up the Asians—in a solid front—against the Communists. The plan represents a new and refreshing approach to Asian problems, and the fact that the new Secretary of State is visiting Asia soon after assuming office is sure to make an impression in the Far East. However, Dulles is likely to get the feel of the situation there more accurately through a personal inspection than he would by reading papers and interviews with foreign service officers in Washington.

Dulles reportedly plans to go to India, Pakistan, and several other key Asian countries, and it is almost certain that he will seek out the viewpoints of various leaders in these countries on an Asian pact aimed at stopping the threat of Communism. Just how far these leaders are ready to go at this moment is the big question. It is thought that anti-Communist sentiment has gained considerable ground in that theater of the world in the past two years—since the outbreak of Red aggression in Korea and the defense of that little Democracy by U. S. and U. N. units. In India, progress has been more noticeable in the last year, and Prime Minister Nehru has openly called down the Communists of India on several occasions in this period.

However, the question whether the Asian countries are ready to cooperate in a joint plan for the defense of their area of the world against Communism cannot be answered until Dulles completes his trip. His visits are sure to help the U. S.-U. N. cause whether or not they result in a joint defense arrangement.

Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia estimated, in his last financial report as head of a joint congressional committee on Federal expenditures, that between 75 and 100 billion dollars was now tied up in revolving accounts, unspent balances, and obligated funds (not necessarily under contract) of various government agencies and departments. Byrd said that the process, developed by the agencies in recent years, of holding huge sums of money in unspent balances and carry-overs, etc., at the end of each year, had denied Congress its time-honored power of keeping a close check on expenditures. And he suggests that much of this huge carry-over be used up in the next year or two, instead of new appropriations.

In this way, he would ease the financial burden of the government and also give Congress a closer check over the budgets of government units. Under the Byrd plan, Congress might force government agencies to use billions of dollars already appropriated by earlier Congresses before new appropriations are voted for them. This could mean a black budget and earlier attainment of tax cuts. (Continued on Page Eight)

## Man Attempts To Enter Home Here

Russell Ampley was arrested near here Monday for trying to break into the Olivia Spruill home on West Church Street late last Saturday night. Spruill broke out several panes in a window, but never entered the house, officers said.

At a hearing held Tuesday night before Justice Chas. R. Mobley, Ampley admitted breaking the window, and declared he did not know why he did it. It was reported the man was drinking when he tried to force his way into the home. Unable to arrange a \$300 bond, he was placed in jail to await trial in the superior court.

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## Suggestion Box

From time to time, individual citizens of Williamston, with no direct voice in town government, have asked to be heard. These columns are open to any and all who have suggestions, supporting a march toward a better town and community.

Under the caption, "Williamston—Wake up, arouse from your slumber," a citizen submits the following suggestions:

Williamston—Wake Up, Arouse from Your Slumber Williamston needs a City Manager with Town Council. A manager whose duty is to manage the affairs of the Town, not be engaged in any business. One who shows no favors, treats all alike, advances the Town.

Williamston needs a Truck Lane. The big gasoline trucks have mighty fine drivers, but if another should crash into one of these Oil trucks the whole Town would be set afire. Williamston Wake Up.

Williamston needs a Zoning Law. Why build a good house and have a dinky little shop put beside the house? Williamston needs side walks, also the City Manager to see that all obey the Law and walk facing traffic.

WILLIAMSTON is the Capital of Martin County. Its obligation is to set a good example, have clean streets, no dirty back yards, no trash on streets. Set a high moral standard. Suggestions for IMPROVEMENT will be acceptable and published. What can we do, what will YOU do?