

## Brief Summary Of Activities In The State's Assembly

### Five Changes In The State Constitution Proposed By Legislature

This session will be North Carolina's longest since 1933. While all but a handful of the major issues have been decided, constitutional requirements for the passage of the revenue and bond bills make final action on this legislation impossible before next Friday.

### Finance

Spurred by a sudden "let's go home" fever, the House finance committee put together the revenue bill in a hurry on Monday afternoon and rushed it through to passage on Wednesday. When it reached the Senate floor on Friday, senators took issue with the section which would permit affiliated domestic corporations to file a consolidated income tax return at an increased 7% rate, contending that none knew how much the measure would reduce revenues. An amendment deleting the section was approved. Following final Senate approval this week, the House must concur in the amended bill before it can become law.

Among the changes approved by both houses are these: (1) a short form income tax return for individual taxpayers with a standard blanket deduction of 10% of gross income but not more than \$500. (2) An increase in deductions for charitable gift purposes of from 10 percent to 15 percent of gross income. (3) Revision of the allocation formula by which corporations determine taxes due the state for property located, and income derived, in the state. By simplifying the formulas it is hoped to make tax procedures more attractive to out-of-state industries. Initially, the short form and charitable deduction provisions may cost the state up to \$1 million in revenue each year, but losses due to the short form are expected to be balanced in the future through the filing of more income tax returns. Denominational institutions seeking funds through gifts should benefit most from the charitable deduction amendment.

As the 1953-55 budget took shape with current revenue some \$26 million lower than biennial appropriations (balanced for the biennium through the use of surplus funds), House finance chairman Rodman warned that a substantial revision of the tax structure may be necessary in 1955 to produce more revenue and at the same time remove inequities now existing. Special tax research studies toward this end have been directed.

### Appropriations

Despite the rapid consideration of the appropriations bill when first reported out by the Senate committee, final approval by both

## J. Robert Bailey Dies In Hospital

John Robert Bailey, 46, died in Duke Hospital, Durham, last Saturday morning at 6:45 o'clock. He had suffered with a heart condition for some time. About three weeks ago he entered the hospital for treatment, transferring to Duke the early part of last week. The son of Mrs. Addie Coburn Bailey and the late Robert C. Bailey, he was born in Cross Roads Township on March 14, 1907, and spent his early life on the farm. For a number of years he had made his home in Williamston. He was employed by the State Highway and Public Works Commission for about five years, quitting that place to become an independent sand contract hauler. He never married. Surviving besides his mother are two sisters, Mrs. Pearl Beach of Bear Grass and Mrs. Allie Biggs of near Williamston, and a brother, A. C. Bailey, of near Williamston. Funeral services were conducted in Christian Chapel at Cross Roads Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by the pastor, the Rev. P. E. Cayton, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Casper, Holiness minister. Interment was in the Coburn family cemetery near Robersonville.

## Costly Timber Fire In County Last Week

Starting over in Beaufort County, a costly forest fire swept into Martin County Thursday before it could be checked late in the afternoon. It burned over ten thousand acres of timberland, centered mostly in the vast Jamesville and Washington Land Company tract in Griffins Township. Fanned by a strong wind, the fire leveled just about every thing before it, running up a loss conservatively estimated at \$100,000 by timber authorities. According to Martin County Forest Fire

Ranger Marvin Leggett, started when a brush fire broke out in the Nelson Peep farm about three miles to the north of Beaufort County. Emergency calls were made to rangers in Districts 4 and 7, and they were about to check the fire late Thursday when the wind shifted and the rangers found it necessary to alter their tactics. Approximately one hundred men, supplied mostly by the North Carolina Pulp Company and the Bates Lumber Company, fought

the fire around the clock. Seven or eight huge fire lanes plowed out by the rangers were used to contain the fire, Leggett said. A successful check was effected when the rangers took a stand on the old J. and W. railroad bed and cut off the on-coming fire by back-firing the woods ahead of it. After bringing the big fire under control, rangers found it necessary to maintain a twenty-four-hour watch, and stumps and trees were still burning yesterday

morning following a heavy rain Sunday morning. Leggett said that several thousand dollars' worth of timber was lost in the fire. It was one of the most costly in the area in several years and of the worst reported so far this year in the county. Burning particles of minute size and coming from the fire ten miles or more away, fell on the town here during late Friday afternoon. The sky was hazy and the smell of smoke was strong.

## Critically Injured In Auto Accident Early Last Friday

### Plymouth Man Unconscious Following Accident Near Dardens

Joseph Moore, 36-year-old Plymouth colored man, was critically injured in one of a series of three accidents reported in this county during the past week-end. No other injuries were reported and property damage was estimated at less than \$1,200, according to preliminary reports coming from members of the highway patrol in Martin and Washington counties. Moore, returning from a late date in or near Jamesville, was apparently "flying low" in a 1947 Ford when he ran off the right side of the road and lost control of the machine at 12:30 o'clock Friday morning about one-half mile this side of Dardens. The car, according to Patrolman Carl Gilchrist who made the investigation, turned over several times. After riding the car on the first flip, Moore was thrown to the pavement, suffering severe head injuries. "A hole was knocked in the back of his head and thirty-seven stitches were needed to close cuts on his forehead and upper lip," Patrolman Gilchrist said. The car, valued at about \$850, was wrecked, the investigating officer said. Moore, according to last reports reaching here, continues unconscious and little hope is held for his recovery. A year ago last Saturday, a Plymouth man, Luther Reason, was fatally injured in an automobile accident near Dardens. There were ten fractures in the last April accident, and several of the victims have not yet fully recovered, one report said. The first in the three-accident series was reported on the Robersonville-Flat Swamp road last Friday afternoon when a log truck out of Williamston ran over and crippled a milk cow belonging to the Irving James dairy. The animal was later killed, Patrolman B. W. Parker, the investigating officer, said. Said to have been stabbed in a fight with Robert Harrell at or near White's station in Poplar Point Township late Sunday afternoon, Raymond Williams jumped into his 1946 Plymouth and

## Compromise Sought In Annexation Plan

### POTATOES

Although overshadowed by talk about tobacco transplantings, preparations are going forward for a larger and possibly a better sweet potato crop in the county this year.

Drawing plants from a specially-heated bed, "Farmer" Meyer Levin and his tenant, Lloyd Bonner, were among the first in the county to transplant sweet potato "sprouts." They have already set out enough plants to cover one-half acre after starting the latter part of last week on the Hyman farm at Everetts. It is expected that the sweet potato acreage will be materially increased in the county this year to offset reductions in peanut and tobacco acreages.

## Teacher Elections Delayed By Group In Local District

### Pupils and Parents On Record Against Opening Of Price Road Corridor

The Williamston School District committee held a lengthy session in Chairman R. L. Coburn's office last Thursday evening, but uncertain of its own status, the group took no official action on scheduled matters. Their appointments delayed, members of the committee advanced the opinion that the new board should not be hampered with any action taken by the old committee, and the more than two-hour meeting was centered around discussions. Suggestions were advanced, including plans for maintenance of the school properties in the district and for a needed expansion program.

Delayed at the last Thursday session, teacher elections are expected within the next few days. While no changes are contemplated, the committee voted to leave the task to the committee whose appointment is expected shortly. Proposed changes in the Williamston district were discussed at length along with the possibility of creating a special charter district. The committee, preparing a resolution to be presented to the county board, was of the opinion that "corridors" should be eliminated in the various districts where practicable. The discussion centered around the proposal to close the corridor running from Old Mill Inn to Corey's Cross Roads on Highway 17, and opening a new corridor into the Williamston district along the Price Mill Road, a distance of a little more than one mile, and transferring the forty-eight pupils to the Bear Grass school. The committee was agreed that the corridor on Highway 17 rightfully belongs to Bear Grass, and it was also agreed that the action to open a new corridor on the other side of the district could establish a troublesome precedent. More or less taken by surprise, the committee is looking to the county board for a more detailed study of the proposal with the assurance that it is anxious to do what it can.

It was revealed at the meeting last Thursday that there are twenty-nine pupils in the Highway 17 corridor from Old Mill Inn to Corey's Cross Roads, and the Price Mill Road has nineteen pupils, all of whom are now attending the Williamston school. The action taken by the committee last week was prompted when the pupils on the Price Road asked that they be allowed to continue at the Williamston School, and a petition, signed by the parents there, asking the County Board of Education to reconsider its action taken earlier in the week.

## P. T. A. Officers Are Named Here

Asa Crawford, local insurance man, was elected president of the Williamston Parent-Teacher Association at a regular meeting of the organization held in the high school auditorium last evening. He moved up from the vice presidency, the office the Rev. J. Don Skinner was elected to fill during the 1953-54 term. Miss Elizabeth Parker, teacher in the school, was chosen secretary and Mrs. Edna Bondurant was re-elected treasurer of the association. Fletcher Thomas is the retiring president. In his absence, Mrs. John L. Goff presided at the session last night. Supporting the spring clean-up movement, the association appropriated \$55 for trash receptacles at the two schools, and applied \$65 on the cost of risers for the glee club. Professor Jack Butler and his junior band moved in to offer the entertainment and give a splendid account of themselves. The program included two selections by the group, and numbers by solos, duets, trios and quartets.

## Native Of County Died On Monday Near Washington

### Funeral Service In Spring Green Church Tuesday For Mrs. Taylor

Mrs. Maggie White Taylor, a native of this county, died in the Beaufort County Nursing Home Monday morning at 4:15 o'clock. She had been in declining health for some time, and entered a Washington hospital for treatment following a stroke about five weeks ago. During the past two weeks she was a patient in the home near Washington. A daughter of the late Calvin and Mary Latham White, she was born in the Spring Green community of Poplar Point Township 73 years ago. She was married in 1900 to L. A. Taylor and continued to live in this county. Following his death she located in Washington where she made her home for the past twenty-five years. In early life, she joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Spring Green, transferring her membership to the Washington church. Possessed of sterling qualities, Mrs. Taylor was active in religious work down through the years, supporting high ideals and all worthy causes. She leaves no children and is survived by a half-sister, Mrs. Emma Powell, of Robersonville; two half-brothers, J. E. and J. A. White, both of this county; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services are being conducted in the Spring Green Church this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by her pastor, Elder A. B. Ayers, assisted by Elder W. E. Grimes. Interment will be in the Spring Green Cemetery.

## Using Soil Heating Cable In Plant Bed Experiments

By J. H. McBrayer, Rural Representative V. E. P. Company. Mr. Meyer M. Levin of Williamston has discovered the effectiveness of using electric soil heating cable for stimulating the growth of sweet potato plants. This year, Levin tried the electrically heated hotbed on an experimental basis by putting in a bed 6 feet wide and 36 feet long. Mr. Levin said: "I am amazed at the difference in the bed with the heating cable compared to those without. I had plants ready to be pulled within four weeks after the potatoes were placed in the bed. The bed was started on March 19, and the plants were ready to be set out by April 15. Next year I am planning to extend the soil heating cable to as many of my potato beds as possible." It required 488 kilowatt hours of electricity to maintain the soil temperature at 75 degrees Fahrenheit for one month. This would cost the average farmer about \$1.65 for electric power for each 6 by 6-foot frame over a period of about one month. Maintaining the soil temperature at the desired level results in a more sturdy and uniform growth of plants. Other features of the electric hotbed that appeal to plant growers are its convenience, cleanliness and ease of operation. The purpose of this experiment is to acquaint growers with this method of growing plants and prove its advantages over the old time methods. Information on the installation of hot beds can be obtained from the county agent or local power supplier. The experiment, located on the Goldie Hyman farm at Everetts, is open for inspection, and Mr. Levin invited farmers to visit the farm. He will be there all day Wednesday to discuss and explain the tests, it was announced.

## Four Arrested At Liquor Distillery Friday Evening

### Quartet To Be Tried In The County Court Next Monday Morning

Four colored men, their ages ranging from 33 to 69 years, walked right into a trap at an illicit liquor still near Oak City last Friday evening shortly before 8:00 o'clock. Ernest Bellamy, Clayton Lynch and Thurston Spruill, arrested at the still along with Evan Dorkins, are at liberty under \$150 bonds. Dorkins continues in jail, unable to arrange bond set by Justice Edmond Early at a hearing held in Oak City late Friday night. The quartet is to face trial in Judge H. O. Peele's court next Monday morning. After planning the trap, Chief ABC Officer Cecil Bullock, assisted by Deputies Roy Peel and Wiley Craft and ABC officers from Pitt County, established a watch around the still Friday evening at 6:00 o'clock. Two hours later, the four men reported, carrying wood and material for the operation. Each of the four examined and tested the 150 gallons of sloppy mash, and following a consultation decided the beer or mash was not ready for the kettle. It was agreed that they would fire up the plant the following night, but at that point the officers moved in to upset the schedule. All four men were taken by surprise and their arrests were effected without difficulty. The plant was equipped with a crude oil drum kettle, and the setting resembled a filthy hog pen, one of the raiders declared.

## Name Local Girl College Editor

### Education Board Inspects Schools

Durham—Elizabeth Chadwick, a local girl, has been selected editor for the 1953-54 Archives, the student literary magazine of Duke University. The selection was made by the University Publications Board. The Archives, which has the distinction of being the oldest continuous literary publication in the South, publishes student-written short stories, poems, and essays. Miss Muse has worked on the Archives staff for a year, has done drama criticism for the student newspaper, the Chronicle, and has been president of her dormitory, Southgate Hall. A Dean's List student, she is member of Ivy, honorary scholastic society, and Sandals, leadership honorary. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Muse of 315 Church Street.

## Successful School For Food Handlers

The Martin County Health Department in cooperation with the State board, the North Carolina Restaurant Association and under the direction of County Sanitarian W. B. Gaylord, Jr., concluded a successful three-day school last Friday for food handlers. Basic principles associated with the restaurant business were advantageously discussed by special leaders, and much good is certain to be derived from the school, it was declared. Out of a potential 130 employees and employers in the profession in this county, 100 attended the sessions. Sanitarian Gaylord said that 39 attended all three sessions, nineteen were present for at least one session. Special visitors included C. B. Bell and Mrs. Kathryn Leggett of the Beaufort County Health Department, and Mrs. J. K. Reid, area lunchroom supervisor, of Plymouth. Mr. Gaylord said that the following establishments where food is served were represented by a 100 percent attendance, Martin General Hospital, Bear Grass and Farm Life lunch rooms, Cabarrus Cafe, The Switch, Griffins Quick Lunch, Leggett's, Everetts colored lunch room. Refreshments were furnished by Griffin's Quick Lunch, Maola Milk and Ice Cream Co., and Baker Oil Co. The following cooperated in the undertaking by supplying prizes, Mr. Gaylord said: Bulluck's, Clark's Pharmacy, Daviss Pharmacy, Woelard Furniture Co., Worrell Appliances, Enterprise, G and C Soda Shop, Williamston Hardware Co., Corey Plumbing, The Switch and Sinclair Service Station.

## Youthful Thief Lands In Jail

After repeated warnings and visits in the juvenile courts, Clifton Earl Brown of the Robersonville section finally landed in the county jail last Friday, booked for petty larceny in Hamilton and Robersonville. He had raided several stores in Hamilton earlier in the week and was being processed at the courthouse Thursday for delivery to a training school when he skipped out of a rest room window in the basement. Friday he was caught trying to sell a stolen article, and Robersonville police turned him over to county authorities. One report said he was fourteen and another said he was sixteen years of age.

## Eye Clinic Held In This County

The second eye clinic of the current school year sponsored by the Martin County School Health Fund with the assistance of the Martin County Welfare Department was held in the Courtroom last Friday. Dr. E. W. Larkin, Jr., of Greenville was the examining physician. He was assisted by a representative from the City Optical Company of Wilmington and Mrs. Louise Bullock from the State Commission of the Blind. Dr. Larkin examined forty-six children during the all day clinic. Twenty-one of the children were white and twenty-five negro. Glasses were prescribed for twenty-seven children and four others were found to be in need of surgery. The surgery in these particular cases will be done by Dr. Larkin as soon as school is out for the year. All fees and hospitalization cost will be taken care of by the State Commission for the Blind.

## Former Resident Gets Recognition

Robert J. Levin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Meyer M. Levin of Williamston, was chosen to speak at the annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers held at the Statler Hotel in New York City a short time ago. His talk, chosen from 600 entries of leading engineers throughout the nation, brought out the engineering story behind the dramatic expansion of the United Mills Inc., of Mt. Gilead, N. C., where Mr. Levin is employed as chief production engineer. It included techniques that were used in time study and methods to lower costs and increase production in a highly competitive market. Intensive training, right placement and a successful maintenance group incentive plan play an important part in his program. Chosen to speak on the same program were a number of prominent engineers from the nation's largest industries, including: the Packard Motor Car Co., Johnson & Johnson, E. I. DuPont, General Electric Co., and Dr. Alphonse Chapanis, Director, Psychological Laboratory, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

## Local Boy's Position In Golden Fleece Revealed

Chosen last year as a member of the Golden Fleece, one of the highest-ranking honorary organizations at the University of North Carolina, Julian Mason, local young man, served as Jason in the society during the past year. It was made public for the first time at a meeting held there last night.

## Glee Club Makes Greensboro Trip

The trip made to Greensboro April 22-25 by members of the Williamston High School Glee Club turned out to be a big success. The four-day trip was made with the purpose of participating in the annual North Carolina Music Festival there. Needless to say everyone enjoyed himself immensely. The five songsters making the trip from here were a small part of a five hundred mixed chorus, directed by Miss Iva Dee Hiatt. With over fifty Tar Heel schools represented, the chorus practiced and trained until the time of the concert Friday night. The group sang mostly religious and spiritual songs and two songs from the play, "Oklahoma". The local group spent most of its time enjoying the sights and walking around with new-found friends. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed up to the last mile. The trip was made by our director, Miss Mary Wallace Foy, Phillip Coltrane, Benny Taylor, Ed Laughinghouse, Janice Manning and Jane Whitaker.—Reported.

## LITTLE LEAGUE

Final plans for perfecting the organization of a Little Baseball League on a county-wide basis will be advanced at a meeting of representatives from the various districts and other interested citizens to be held in the courthouse here this evening at 8:00 o'clock. Warren Carroll, of Greenville, State director of the Little League will address the meeting, it was announced.

## County Boy Talks Soil Conservation On Radio Station

Introduced by Larry Hodges, assistant Martin County Farm Agent, Russell Roberson of this county participated in the 4-H Club program over Station WPTF in Raleigh last Saturday, making the following talk on soil conservation. The educational viewpoint of an occasion of this nature, and the topic which I will present to you today, bring back to me the memory of an event which I witnessed last winter. I was invited to go rabbit hunting with Don Shaw and a few of his friends, and as we started off across the corn field without a gun or dog, I asked them how they proposed to bring home any rabbits. Much to my surprise one of them replied, "Aw we run 'em down." As we neared a little branch that flowed through his farm, a cotton-tail showed us his heels and made a dash for the nearest cotton field. Glenn, Don's brother, let out a commanding yell, "This one's mine," and went after him across the field. In short order he had him. In a few steps more, he was reaching out with one hand stroking the rabbit along the back and making no attempt to catch him. I turned to one of the boys near me and complained, "Why doesn't he grab him?" In an assuring voice he answered me, "Oh! he's feeling his hips and back before he picks him up. Pa would bluster us if we brought home a skinny one." Some of our so-called prosperous farmers of today, who are only interested in raising a good crop of peanuts or tobacco, are apt to wake up with the astounding realization that they are without even a skinny rabbit to stew, when they find that most or all of their fertile soil has been washed away through gullies. I honestly believe that some farmers do not realize that their top soil is slowly being washed away by the tons until the red clay, which will not grow anything at all, is the only soil they have left. If you were to ask any row crop farmer what his primary interests are in connection with the operation and management of a farm, I would be willing to say

## Hardison Infant Died Thursday In Hospital

William Leslie, one-day-old infant son of Archie Brown Hardison and Clarabell Edmondson Hardison, died in a Wilmington hospital at 8:30 o'clock last Thursday morning. Graveside services were conducted in Woodlawn Cemetery here Friday afternoon at 5:00 o'clock by the Rev. John L. Goff. The infant was transferred from the home in Poplar Point Township late last Wednesday night. Surviving besides the parents are a sister, Carolyn Ann, and the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Edmondson and Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Hardison, all of this county.

## ROUND-UP

Following a couple of weeks of little activity on the crime front in this county, officers were kept running last week-end, rounding up and jailing alleged law violators. Five were booked for public drunkenness, and one each for larceny, violating the liquor laws, assault, disorderly conduct and drunkenness and disorderly conduct. The ages of the group ranged from 16 to 60 years, and one of the ten was white.