

## Closing Programs In County High Schools

**Thursday, May 28  
Last Day Of Term  
For The Schools**

**Two Hundred and Fifteen  
Are Candidates For Gra-  
duation This Year**

Eight Martin County high schools—five white and three colored—are closing the current term next Thursday when orators will give the 215 candidates for graduation neat packages of advice for the future. Commencement events are getting under way this week-end with the annual sermons scheduled for Sunday morning and evening, and graduation night on the 28th. The youngsters are anxiously anticipating the final event which will climax another successful term for the schools in this county. Elementary schools will complete their exercises earlier in the week and join in with the high schools departments for the finals on Thursday.

Starting out as one of the smallest classes in a number of years, the seniors are fewer in number this year than in several years in the white schools. The count in the white schools is 35 below the record of 179 established in 1951, and 21 below the 165 figure for 1952. Farm Life's high school is not in the picture this year for the first time in a long time, but the patrons there are hoping to have the department in the records next year.

A new colored high school at Oak City is in the picture this year for the first time. Principal Turner Slade announcing that the school there has eight candidates for graduation next week. The three combined colored high schools—Williamston, Parmele and Oak City—are offering 71 pupils for graduation next week, as compared with 52 last year. Williamston is boosting its number from 18 to a record of 42. Principal Holmes announced. Parmele is reporting a reduction from 34 to 21.

Of the 144 candidates for graduation in the five white high schools, 67 are young men and 77 are young women.

A brief schedule of closing activities in the several white high schools follows:

**Jamesville**  
Class night exercises, Friday, May 22 at 8:00 o'clock in the auditorium.

Commencement sermon, Sunday, May 24, 8:00 o'clock p. m. in the school auditorium. Speaker, the Rev. Lewis Stynes, Jr., of Roanoke Rapids.

Commencement, Thursday, May 28 at 8:00 o'clock in the school auditorium. Speaker, Dr. D. Ray Lindsey, president of Atlantic Christian College, Wilson.

The names of the seniors:  
Elmer Ray Beacham, Donald Mitchell Brown, James Douglas Gardner, Bobby Clark Hardison, Nathan B. Lilley, Bobby Clifton Moore, Bobby Ray Rogers, Janie Louise Coltrane, Nancy Lee Cooper, Peggy Jean Gardner, Thelma Joyce Gurganus, Louise Faye Hardison, Suzanne Hardison, Barbara Ann Holliday, Nan Mizelle Holliday, Peggy Louise Mizelle, Agnes Marie Padgett, Erlene Perry, Lillie Mae Pierce.

**Bear Grass**  
The Bear Grass seniors open the commencement series there Friday at 8:00 o'clock when they hold their class night exercises, centered around the legend, "The Magnolia Blossom".

The commencement sermon will be preached Sunday evening at 8:00 o'clock in the school auditorium by the Rev. P. E. Cayton.

The commencement exercises will be held Thursday evening at 8:00 o'clock. James W. Butler, E. C. College Alumni secretary, is to address the seniors. Mr. Leroy Harrison, member of the Martin County Board of Education, will present the annual awards, and Mr. Chesley Jones, committee-man, will deliver the diplomas.

Names of the seniors are:  
Alston Ausbon, Clifford Britton, Eddie Harris, A. C. Harrison, R.

### PLAN APPEAL

Meeting in the community house at Macedonia Tuesday evening, school patrons in that area, representing just about every home in the district, mapped plans to go before higher officials and appeal from a Martin County Board of Education order directing a number of pupils from the local school to the one in Bear Grass.

Details for advancing the appeal were not disclosed, but there was strong support for the movement, according to information reaching here. "We have nothing against Bear Grass, but we went to school in Williamston and we want our children to go there," several patrons were quoted as saying.

The meeting lasted about an hour, and some action is scheduled for the next few days, according to one unofficial report.

## Alfred Harrison Died In Hospital Early Yesterday

**Funeral Being Held Today  
In Bear Grass For  
Young Man**

Alfred Smith Harrison, well-known young man of Bear Grass Township, died in a local hospital yesterday morning at 5:50 o'clock. Suffering from diabetes, he had been in declining health since 1942, but supported by a strong desire to live, he continued fairly active until last October when his condition worsened. Since that date he had spent much time receiving treatment in various hospitals.

The son of Ephraim C. and Maggie Wynne Harrison, he was born in Bear Grass Township 22 years ago on November 24, 1930. He spent all his life there, working on the farm when he was able and attending the Bear Grass schools. Despite declining health he maintained a keen interest until his last serious illness in the event of the day and his companions, and was highly respected. He never married.

Surviving besides his parents are two sisters, Nancy and Dianne Harrison, both of the home; three brothers, Levi Harrison of Everett, Eli D. Harrison of Gastonia, and Billy Harrison of the home.

Funeral services are being conducted in the Bear Grass Primitive Baptist Church this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by the pastor, Elder A. B. Ayers, assisted by Elders E. C. Stevenson of Hamilton and W. E. Grimes of Pitt County. Interment will be in the family cemetery on the home farm.

## Oak City School Principal Resigns

B. F. Sloane, principal of the Oak City schools for the past four years, last week tendered his resignation, it was announced by Committeeman Sidney Mallory yesterday. The school man, recruited for another term at a previous meeting, did not disclose his plans for the future.

Accepting the resignation, the local committee in a meeting tonight will consider several applications for the position, it was announced.

The committee is composed of Mr. Mallory and Messrs. Elmer R. Edmondson, Clayton House, R. A. Haislip, Jr., and Henry Worsley.

**Full Recreation Group  
Meets At 8:00 Tonight**

Chairman T. L. Hastings is calling a meeting of the full Martin County Recreation Committee for 8:00 p. m. today in the Episcopal Parish House here.

Plans for the summer's recreation program are to be completed. If financial arrangements can be made the new coach, Roger Thrift will be here this summer.

## Extensive Damage Caused In Area By Hail - Wind Storm

**Hundreds of Acres of Field  
Crops Ruined By Storm  
Tuesday Afternoon**

Several hundred acres of field crops were laid waste and some other damage was caused by a hail and wind storm that swept over this area shortly after 2:00 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. No estimates of the loss could be had immediately, but it will run well into the tens of thousands of dollars in this immediate section alone, it was declared by farmers.

Complete reports could not be had, but the storm in this county was centered mainly in parts of Poplar Point and Williamston Townships. Damage was reported in the Spring Green area on down through Poplar Point, across an estimated three-mile strip into Bertie, skirting the northwestern section of Williamston.

On the Mary Cherry farm, about three miles from Williamston, the storm struck with such fury and so suddenly that farmers were caught in the fields. Farmer Roy Martin could not hold a pair of mules hitched to a plow and they ran to the house. Reaching shelter in a small outhouse, Farmer Martin was badly bruised about the shoulders by the hail stones, some of them being as large as one's fist.

On the Cowen brothers' farm at Sandy Point, the hail left the fields almost bare, making it difficult to tell just what had been planted there. Windows were broken out in homes and shelters were ripped from farm buildings in that community.

Seventy-five acres of choice spring wheat on the Conoho farm belonging to the Lindsleys were laid waste, the owners declaring there was nothing to do but abandon the crop. Approximately twenty acres of tobacco were wiped out on the Peel farm, one and one-half miles from here on Highway 125.

Highway 17, north, was literally covered with the hail stones, and the resulting fog created a traffic hazard.

One or two trees were blown into the highway south of Conine Creek bridge, and the causeway was almost covered with leaves for two miles.

Farmers immediately started making plans to put their transplanters back into operation, several of them explaining that it would be cheaper to transplant the crop in its entirety rather than attempt to replace the damaged plants by hand. The extent of the damage will be determined largely by the success of the renewed operations. It is getting a bit late to transplant tobacco, and failure could follow as a result of the late season for those whose crops were damaged or completely destroyed.

The storm, described as the worst of its type to strike this county in about thirty years, was followed by a second one about 6:30 o'clock Tuesday evening. The storm, centered in Poplar Point Township and following a part of the same course of the first strike, was not so severe.

In the early thirties a bad hail storm struck in the Gold Point-Hassell section. Insurance company representatives found it necessary at that time to make detailed inspections. They merely drove to the edge of the field and wrote checks for maximum amounts. The early thirty storm struck in July.

Four or more insurance adjusters are expected in here early Saturday morning to start a detailed survey of the last Tuesday storm damage.

## Band To Attend Potato Festival

The Williamston High School Marching Band will take part in the big parade at Elizabeth City a week from this coming Saturday and three majorettes from the band will enter the twirling contest. Director Jack Butler has announced.

The parade is to begin at 11:00 in the morning and the twirling contest will be held that night. Further details are expected to be ready for release over the week-end.

## Contracts Let For Another Large Storage House Here

Contracts were let this week by the Williamston Storage Corporation for the construction of another huge storage house here, it was announced yesterday by W. Iverson Skinner, president. Construction work is already getting under way, Mr. Skinner said, and it is planned to have a part if not all of the warehouse ready for use next fall.

Designed to store ten thousand hogsheads of tobacco, the new house, measuring 448 by 160 feet, will be located just back of a similar unit completed by the company last year just off Washington Street at the end of Peele Street.

A contract was entered into earlier in the week with the Clark Construction Company for the

grading work. The company will also pour the concrete floor. The Howell Steel Company of Weldon was awarded a contract yesterday for handling the steel construction. White's Heating and Sheet Metal Works will build the roof, and a third contract for the wood work is pending with the possibility that it will be completed today or tomorrow.

The storage firm already holds a contract with the Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation for the storage of a large quantity of tobacco, much of which is processed by the W. I. Skinner Company before being placed in storage here. Contracts are being entered into with manufacturers and dealers for the storage of considerable quantities of leaf here, it was learned.

## Fifty Candidates For Graduation In Local School

**Sermon Sunday Opens Finals Program; Address  
Thursday Night**

Entering the last lap of their local school careers, fifty candidates for graduation are looking forward to the current term commencement program which gets under way here Sunday evening at 8:00 o'clock when the Rev. Thomas L. Hastings, rector of the Church of the Advent, delivers the annual sermon in the high school auditorium.

Class night exercises will be held next Wednesday at 8:00 o'clock, and on the morning of the 28th the awards will be announced at 9:30 o'clock in the high school auditorium. The commencement address will be delivered Thursday evening, May 28, at 8:00 o'clock by the Rev. D. E. Earnhardt, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Washington.

Of course there is the little matter of final examinations to be attended to. Beginning tomorrow, the seniors will have all of them cleared away by next Tuesday.

The local high school is graduating one of its largest classes this year. Drawing heavily on the young boys and girls who came in from Farm Life last fall, the school has fifty candidates for graduation, including 26 boys and 24 girls. Eleven of the fifty are from the Farm Life area. Last year the school graduated 43, and the year before the number of graduates was fifty. Principal B. G. Stewart announces that the school this year has the largest rising junior class in its history.

The names of the candidates for graduation are:  
Ben Andrews, Ray Bell, Samuel Bullock, Ernest Carraway, James Coltrane, Jesse Cowan, Wilbur Edwards, Harrell Everett, Buddy Russell, Wade Gardner, Carl Garrett, Jr., Ernest Goddard, J. C. Gurkin, Jr., Paul Harrington, Billy Harris, Preston Hughes, Rodney Lilley, Shelton Lilley, Billy Ray McKee, LeRoy Peele, Bobby Perry, Henry Roberson, Russell Roberson, Jerry Savage, Edward Ward, Joe Williams, Willie Lou Bowen, Carolyn Bullock, Joyce Ann Cowan, Margie Culpher, Betty Lou Dudley, Hilda G. Harrison, Jean Hardison, Nanette Harrison, Jean Holloman, Jane Hopkins, Jean Howard, Wanda Jones, Mary Ann Manning, Jean Ward Mobley, Jo Ann McLawhorn, Myrtle Nicholson, Zedie Pate, Barbara Peed, Marie Peele, Ann Raynor, Sallie Roberson, Gloria Taylor, Irma Wainwright, Joyce Ward.

**Respiratory TB Showing  
Marked Decline In U. S.**

An "extraordinary" average drop of fifty per cent in the annual death rate from respiratory tuberculosis since the end of World War II, has been reported by the World Health Organization which considers the decline "one of the most sensational developments ever recorded in the field of public health".

Using mobile X-ray units, the health authorities have made considerable progress in routing the disease in this county during recent years.

## Attacks On Girl Denied by Father At Local Hearing

**Frank Edwards, Pitt Native,  
Returned To Jail In  
Default Of Bond**

A 14-year old girl, hardened to the abject cruelties of life by a debased father and an apparently indifferent mother, told a pitiful story in the Martin County courtroom Tuesday evening when the scoundrelly father, 45-year-old Frank Edwards, a native of Pitt County, was given a preliminary hearing before Justice Chas. R. Mobley on the charge of carnal knowledge and incest.

Unable to turn even to her mother for protection against a despicable father, the little victim seemed to be in a daze at times. But she told a damaging story of the common and sordid treatment, treatment that would have been out of place in a filthy hog sty.

The little victim told how her father had mistreated her the first time back in 1951, how she had begun to appeal to her mother for protection. The evidence showed that the mother slept through or remained silent during one of the attacks, and then allegedly participated as an accessory after the fact. She told about the last attack, alleged to have taken place in a taxi along a country roadside in Pitt County less than two weeks ago.

"We'll not go into detail, but you were attacked in between those times?" Justice Mobley asked. She said that she had, including one attack that took place about three months ago while her mother was away from home to see a doctor.

It was brought out that the family occupied a four-room house over in Williams Township. One was used as a kitchen, and the others were bed rooms. The 14-year-old daughter, since 1952, had slept in one bed with her mother and baby sister in one room. The father and a son slept in another room, and a married brother and his wife occupied the third bedroom. "That was the only way we could arrange it," the daughter explained on cross examination.

Sheriff M. W. Holloman, making a detailed investigation, reviewed his findings, leaving Justice Mobley nothing else to do but find probable cause of guilt. The sheriff related that taxi driver, Joe Godard of Wallace's Station.

(Continued on Page Five)

## Handle Nineteen Cases In County Court On Monday

**Deadly Weapon Attack Nets  
Road Term; Fines Add  
Up To \$305.00**

Judge H. O. Peele and Solicitor Clarence Griffin handled nineteen cases in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday before adjourning the tribunal about the noon hour. Fines added up to \$305. One defendant, charged with assaulting a female with a deadly weapon, drew four months on the roads.

Proceedings:  
Charged with drunken driving, Leggett Roebuck was found not guilty.

The case in which Albert Alston Thompson was charged with reckless driving, was not prosed. Adjudged guilty of drunken driving, Sam Roberson was fined \$100 and taxed with the costs. He loses his operator's license for a year.

Charged with speeding 75 miles an hour, William Earl Sheppard of RFD 1, Robersonville, was sentenced to the roads for sixty days, the court suspending the road term on condition that the defendant surrender his operator's license for a year and pay a \$25 fine and court costs.

Pleading guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, Tommie Saunders, was taxed with the court costs.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Sarah Lee Andrews pleaded guilty and was sentenced to jail for thirty days. The jail term was suspended upon the payment of the costs.

Pleading innocent, James Au-

(Continued on Page Five)

## Dr. Jno. W. Williams Last Rites Held For

**DIES IN HOSPITAL**



Dr. John W. Williams, Martin County health officer for more than thirteen years, died in a local hospital Tuesday afternoon at 3:05 o'clock. The funeral was conducted in the Presbyterian church here yesterday morning, and interment was in Oakdale Cemetery, Washington, his native home.

## Former Resident Died In Hospital This Morning

**Funeral Here Saturday At  
3:30 P. M. For Mrs.  
Mattie Waters Walker**

Mrs. Mattie Waters Walker, a resident of Williamston for a number of years, died in a Virginia hospital early this morning. In declining health for seven or more years she had been a patient in the hospital for some time.

The daughter of the late James B. and Evelina Smith Waters, she was born in Washington County 68 years ago on February 5, 1885, and moved about five years later to Williamston with her family. She attended the local schools and was employed in the office of the Martin County Register of Deeds for a number of years. She was later employed by Margolis Brothers. Going to Norfolk about thirty years ago she was married there to Edgar Walker, and had made her home in Hampton for a long time.

She was a member of the Methodist church, and is remembered here as one possessed of a pleasing personality and a friendliness that endeared her to everyone.

Surviving besides her husband are a sister, Mrs. H. P. Moore, of Norfolk, a brother, W. H. Waters, of Bertie County and several nieces and a nephew.

The body will be brought here late tonight or tomorrow and the last rites will be conducted in the Biggs Funeral Home Saturday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by the Rev. R. E. Walston, pastor of the local Methodist church. Interment will be in the family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery.

## Four Members Of Faculty Resign

Immediately following the reelection of all members of the local school faculty, the local school committee reluctantly accepted four resignations at a meeting held last Tuesday evening.

Miss Sue Henderson is resigning to accept a teaching fellowship in France next term. Another fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Sarah Cherry, tendered her resignation on account of illness in her family. Mrs. Jane Brown, seventh grade teacher, is leaving to join her husband, Walter Brown, in Raleigh. She has accepted a position in the city schools there. Mrs. W. H. Abernathy resigned as home economics teacher, Principal B. G. Stewart announced.

The committee—Messrs. R. L. Coburn, R. H. Goodman, W. Iverson Skinner, Marvin Britton and W. Clyde Griffin—held its first meeting following the re-elections by the Martin County Board of Education earlier in the month.

## County's Health Officer Died In Hospital Tuesday

**Funeral Held In Presby-  
terian Church Here At  
10:30 Wednesday**

Funeral services were conducted in the Presbyterian church here yesterday morning at 10:30 o'clock for Dr. John W. Williams, Martin County health officer, who died in a local hospital Tuesday afternoon at 3:05 o'clock. His pastor, the Rev. J. Don Skinner, conducted the rites. Interment was in Oakdale Cemetery, Washington, his home town.

In declining health for several months, he had received treatment at intervals in several hospitals. Suffering with a heart condition, he entered the hospital here about ten weeks ago, and his condition had been critical since that time.

The son of the late Samuel H. and Elizabeth Williams, he was born in Washington 69 years ago next July. Completing his early education in the schools there, he entered the University of North Carolina and went on to get the doctor of medicine degree at the University of Maryland in 1906. He practiced medicine several years in Everetts soon after completing his medical education, and also practiced in Vanceboro, Suffolk, Va., and his home town. In 1926 he entered Johns Hopkins in Baltimore where he trained for public health work. A year later he located in Louisiana, heading public health departments at Basile and Monroe in that State until 1935 when he went to Asheville to head the city health department there.

Coming to Williamston from Asheville in January, 1940, he took over the duties of health officer for Martin County and expanded public health services throughout the county, opening clinics in the various towns and sponsoring the construction and opening of a modern health center in Williamston. He showed a keen interest in public health work, and championed the right of everyone to share in an adequate health program and medical care. The records clearly show a marked improvement in maternal and infant care during the period he headed the department in this county.

(Continued on Page Six)

## Gets Behind With Fishing Schedule

Here on a rush errand this morning, County Commissioner H. L. Roebuck admitted he was getting a long way behind with his fishing schedule. Hardly ever missing more than a few days all year around, the commissioner explained that he had not been to a creek in three or four weeks.

One would think the fish would have a chance to multiply greatly in his absence, but Mr. Roebuck pointed out that Frank Bailey and the other boys were still on the fishing job. Farm work and a home repair project are keeping the fisherman at home these days, he explained.

Fishing is now recognized as one of the greatest past-times for the people in this section. The highways are lined with fishermen each Wednesday afternoon and every week-end, going to the various streams to test their luck. The big fishing season in the Roanoke is spent, and it passed without any one losing his life in the stream. It was the first time in many years that no drowning was reported during the herring-rock fishing season that no drowning was reported along the Martin County shores.

More herring were taken from the Roanoke during the season recently ended than in any other period in many years. The catches were so large that the fishermen could not handle them at times and the fish were dumped back into the stream by the tens of thousands. The rock catch in this area was small, however.