

Young Farmer Killed By Bolt Of Lightning

Funeral Held For Hewett Edwards Friday Afternoon

Mrs. Edwards Stunned By Bolt That Claimed Her Husband's Life

William Hewett Edwards, prominent Martin County young farmer and a leading citizen of this community, was instantly killed by lightning while working in a field on his farm near Williamston at 3:30 o'clock last Wednesday afternoon. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at a local hospital.

Mrs. Edwards, just a few steps away, was stunned by the lightning bolt that claimed her husband's life, but her injuries, confined to the hands, were not serious. A hired hand on the farm was with Mr. and Mrs. Edwards but she was not hurt. The three were moving toward the house ahead of an approaching rain storm when the lightning struck in the open field.

It was the first death caused by lightning in this county in a number of years.

The son of the late William Herbert and Annie Taylor Edwards, he was born near Williamston forty years ago on May 5, 1913, and spent all his life on the farm. Attending the Williamston schools, he was a star player on the high school football team, and was popular among both old and young. He was an able farmer and a leader in his community, contributing much to all phases of life and lending a helping hand to worthy causes.

Surviving besides Mrs. Edwards, the former Miss Grace Page, are a son, William Hewett Edwards, Jr., stationed at Baltimore with the U. S. Coast Guard; a daughter, Audrey Page Edwards; a grandchild; one brother, John Henry Edwards of Williamston, and Mrs. Lyman Johnson of Rocky Mount.

Funeral services were conducted at the home last Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Elder A. B. Ayers, assisted by Elder W. E. Grimes of Greenville and the Rev. E. Gordon Conklin, pastor of the Williamston Memorial Baptist Church. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery.

New Member Of Education Board

Sherwood L. Roberson subscribed to the oath of office administered by Clerk of Court L. Bruce Wynne in the commissioners' room in the county courthouse last Tuesday, and immediately entered upon his duties as a member of the Martin County Board of Education. Making no statement, Mr. Roberson signed the oath of office and immediately took his seat, declaring he was ready for work.

Resigning as a member of the Robersonville local school committee, Mr. Roberson recommended Ernest Beaman Whichard as his successor on the local committee. The appointment was duly made, and Mr. Whichard is to serve at least until May 1955.

Mr. Roberson was appointed a short time ago by the Martin Democratic Executive Committee to fill the position made vacant by the untimely death of Cecil Powell, several terms a member of the board.

Board Members Howard Gaylord, Leroy Harrison and Ernest Edmondson were present when Mr. Roberson subscribed to the office oath. Member C. U. Rogers was absent.

Cannery Opens At Oak City For The Season

Information from the Oak City Parent-Teacher Association stated the cannery would open this week for the first time this season.

Canning operations will take place on each Monday and Thursday afternoon from 1 o'clock to 5 o'clock.

DISTRICT DEPUTY



Ben D. Courtney, local business man, has been appointed deputy district governor for the Lions by District Governor Sam Holton of Louisburg. Receiving one of the highest honors accorded a member of the local club, Mr. Courtney will visit the clubs from here to Manteo.

Damage Done To Crops By Storms In Martin County

Tobacco and Corn On Hundred Farms In Oak City Area Damaged Friday

A combined electrical, hail, rain and wind storm with major portions of rain and wind, hit an area extending from the old Everetts-Williamston road to Fisher Harris' farm on U. S. Highway 17, last Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

It was during this same storm that a bolt of lightning took the life of William Hewett Edwards. One of the first farms to be struck by the storm was that of Raymond Cherry near Mickey's Inn. His tobacco crop was damaged at least 40 per cent and his corn crop suffered similar damages.

Further west on the same road corn and tobacco crops were damaged by wind and some hail but not to serious proportions. A large tree fell across the road at Mickey's Inn stopping traffic until it was cleared by Prison Camp labor. A large tree also fell in the yard of Lester Rogers tearing down several yards of his fence.

Reaching out over the Prison Camp farm the storm did much damage to the corn and truck according to a statement made by Captain Williams, superintendent of the Prison Camp.

The tobacco crop of John Peele who lives on the Williamston-Bear Grass road was also badly damaged. Leaves were torn from the stalks and many of the stalks broke completely off when Mr. Peele and his helpers attempted to straighten the tobacco. His tobacco and corn damage was estimated at 40 per cent.

Further west the wind tore a tobacco barn connecting shelter from its base. His tobacco and corn was damaged but not so badly as that of Cherry and Peele.

A tree was blown down in the yard of J. G. Corey and damage to tobacco and other crops was estimated at 25 per cent.

STILL ACTIVE

According to unofficial but reliable information reaching here yesterday, the highway truck route or by-pass around the town is still in an "active" state, but it was admitted that little progress is being made on the project at this time. More right-of-way obstacles are being encountered such as titles, it was learned. No 6's were mentioned, but it was said that highway authorities are greatly interested in starting and completing the project. It isn't likely that much progress will be made on the project before the fall.

Weather Review For Past Month In This Section

Rainfall For Month Of June Nearly Two Inches Above Normal

The old saying that dry June makes the bread and a wet June is costly is to be tested this year. Reviewing the weather for this immediate section for the past month, Bridgekeeper Hugh Spruill reported 6.89 inches of rain during the period or 1.82 inches above normal.

The review shows the old Roanoke was well under control during the period, reaching a top figure of 6.1 feet and a low of 3.4 feet.

Temperature readings were comparatively on the hot side during many days in the month, but dipped to a low 51 degrees on the 16th.

The weather data, including the river gauge readings, as released by Mr. Spruill for the month of June follow, with the date in the first column, the river gauge readings in the second column, the maximum temperature reading in the third, minimum temperature reading in the fourth and the rainfall in the fifth column for each day of the month:

Date	River	H	L	Rain
1	4.4	87	61	0
2	3.4	82	51	0
3	3.8	87	47	0
4	4.4	90	52	0
5	4.5	95	60	0
6	4.5	83	66	0
7	4.3	80	68	.09
8	4.2	91	65	.10
9	4.3	91	69	.40
10	4.6	84	70	0
11	4.4	89	54	0
12	5.0	81	64	1.53
13	4.8	79	63	.02
14	5.6	75	58	0
15	4.9	83	51	0
16	4.7	79	61	.13
17	5.4	84	62	1.88
18	5.2	86	57	0

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Chosen For T. V. Poster



Lieutenant Anne S. Mizelle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mizelle of Williamston, was chosen from the nurses corps in Sam Houston, Texas, to pose for a TV poster that will be shown all over the country during 1953 in connection with the Army Nurses Corps. All local channels are expected to show the poster this month. Lt. Mizelle is now stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

ROUND-UP

Ten persons were rounded up and temporarily detained in the county jail during the July Fourth holiday weekend. Four of them were charged with public drunkenness, two with drunken driving, two with assault and one with larceny. A tenth person was jailed for being absent from the service without leave.

Four of the ten were white and the ages of the group ranged from 16 to 60 years.

Billy M. Haislip Died At Home In County Saturday

Funeral Service Held At Brother's Home Near Oak City Monday

Billy Mack Haislip, retired farmer, died at his home near Oak City at 4:30 o'clock last Saturday morning. He had been an invalid for more than fifty years, and was critically ill for about ten days.

The son of the late Alexander and Mary Ann Rawls Haislip, he was born in Goose Nest Township 81 years ago on December 28, 1871. In his early teens he was employed by the Slade-Jones Company in Hamilton, and later was employed by a mercantile firm in Tarboro. While in Tarboro he was stricken with paralysis, and returned to the old home in this county. He never married. Despite his infirmities, he managed to maintain his house hold, asking few favors of others.

Surviving are two brothers, R. A. Haislip of Oak City and Grover R. Haislip of Hamilton. The funeral service was held at the home of his brother, R. A. Haislip, near Oak City Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by the Rev. Z. B. T. Cox, a former neighbor who is now pastor of the Farmville Christian Church. Interment was in the Hamilton Cemetery.

Officer Attacked At Home Here During Raid

Officer M. E. Whitehurst was attacked when he and other officers started to raid a home on Railroad Street last Friday evening. After reading a search warrant, the officers started to move in, but Pearlie Goss, 17-year-old colored girl, attacked the officer, scratching him on the face and neck.

She was arrested and jailed and is now awaiting trial in the county court.

Holiday Observed Without Serious Trouble In County

The July Fourth holiday weekend was observed in this county without any serious trouble, preliminary reports revealing only two minor highway accidents, no killings and only a few infractions of the law.

While the tragic death of a young farmer near Williamston and other deaths marred the observance, all was fairly quiet on other fronts, according to reports coming from various officers and individuals throughout the county.

Traffic is believed to have established a new volume record, members of the Highway Patrol, working 16 to 18 hours a day during the long holiday weekend, turning in quite a few speeders and three drunken drivers.

County Board Of Commissioners In Regular Meeting

Final Action Taken On The Budget In Short Session Monday Morning

Holding one of their shortest sessions in months, the Martin County Commissioners Monday morning took final action on the 1953-54 budget, approved budget estimates for the several local school districts and recommended several road projects in addition to routine duties.

Only three commissioners, Messrs. C. C. Martin, J. C. Gurkin and J. H. Edwards, were present for the session which lasted less than two hours.

The 1953-54 budget, calling for a \$1.35 county rate, was given final approval, and the auditor's office is already computing the tax figures.

The board recommended a road in Williams Township be extended and improved, beginning at the residence of Charlie Lee on Highway 64 and running a northerly course three-quarters of a mile to Little Dam Swamp. The road is generally known as the Upper Island Road, and the commissioners would have about 100 yards added to the north end and the entire route widened.

It was also recommended by the board that the State Highway and Public Works Commission include in its system six-tenths of a mile of road in Williams Township, running from Joe B. Nichols' to the Barber Road and known as the Lanier Island Road.

David L. Simmons of Wilson was employed as assistant Negro county agent, the county to pay part of his salary. An assistant to R. M. Edwards, he is to begin work on July 16.

Upon the recommendations of the local committees and the Martin County Board of Education, the commissioners approved the budgets for the various special school districts.

Increasing its rate from twelve to fifteen cents on the \$100 assessed property valuation, the Oak City district proposes to raise \$6,850 for special school purposes.

The 20-cent rate in Williams-ton's school district will, it is estimated, raise \$16,596.

Robersonville, with a 20-cent rate, has a budget calling for \$10,293.

Jamesville, with its 15-cent rate, prepared a budget calling for expenditures in the sum of \$7,605.

With a 20-cent rate, Bear Grass has a budget in the sum of \$2,729. The special levies for various districts are used for various purposes such as employing special teachers, providing clerical help, salary supplements in some cases and other projects.

In his monthly report, Tax Collector M. L. Peel reported that \$368,779.66 of the \$394,820 levy for 1952 had been collected. A balance of \$12,718.34 and on the \$389,478.12 levy for 1951. All but \$6,845.60 or the \$330,747.19 levy for 1950 has been collected, and \$4,296.76 is due on the \$314,225.04 levy for 1949.

Officers Find Quantity Of Liquor In Home Here

Raiding the home of Annie Purvis on Center Street last week-end, local and ABC officers found a quart of white liquor.

The owner had arranged a big fish fry at her home and was allegedly looking for more customers when the raiders made their appearance unexpectedly. She is booked for trial in the county court.

TOBACCO LABOR

The labor market on tobacco farms in this section of the State is getting "tight", according to reports heard here this week. Farmers from other counties are coming into Martin, contracting for labor and offering special inducements to workers.

Reports from the Oak City section state that Pitt County farmers had visited there, offering shelter hands \$7 and \$10 to primers per day. Wilson County farmers were in Williamston recently contracting with workers, guaranteeing them transportation and wages comparable to those offered by the Pitt County people.

Leading County Man Dies Near Palmyra

County Boy Heads Graham Memorial

Chapel Hill, July—Jimmy Wallace, Jamesville, graduate student in history in the University of North Carolina, has just been appointed director of Graham Memorial, student activities building, to succeed Bill Roth who resigned in the spring to become associated professionally with the Boy Scouts of America.

Since Roth's resignation John Ammons, Salisbury, has served as acting director. Wallace was named by Graham Memorial's board of directors from among five candidates. The new director took his B. S. degree in physics here in 1944 and received his law degree in June, 1947, and in August of the same year was awarded an A. B. in mathematics. From 1947 to 1950 he taught school in Robersonville.

Returning to the University in 1950 as part time instructor in social science, he began work on his M. A. and Ph. D. degrees in history. During his undergraduate years, Wallace was on the Daily Tar Heel staff in every capacity except editor, was president of the Interdormitory Council, chairman of the Carolina Political Union, and was a member of the Student Legislature and the Golden Fleece ranking honorary organization.

Currently he is advisor for Mangum dormitory and Scoutmaster for Troop 9 in Chapel Hill. In August he will marry Miss Nina Gray of Robersonville, a graduate student in English in the University and an associate member of the Phi Kappa Phi.

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Funeral Held For J. A. Everett At His Home Monday

Former County Representative In Legislature Had Been Ill Long Time

J. Alphonso Everett, prominent Martin County citizen and a leading farmer of Goose Nest Township, died in his sleep at his home near Palmyra early Sunday morning. He had been in declining health for years, but following several major operations his condition continued fairly good until a heart condition developed some time ago. However, he maintained a schedule of limited activity and the night before his death, he apparently was getting along all right.

The son of the late Justus and Elizabeth Purvis Everett, he was born in Martin County 66 years ago on August 4, 1886, and spent his early life on the farm. He attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he was a track letterman. Completing his education there, he taught school and served as principal of the Dover schools. Marrying Miss Minnie Whichard in 1918, he returned to the farm in 1921, and right up until his death figured prominently in progressive agriculture.

In addition to his farming operations, Mr. Everett was active in the affairs of his county and State. He served the county with distinction in the State House of Representatives during the 1927 and 1929 sessions, and headed the important agriculture committee during the second term there. He was also active in the affairs of his community, devoting much time to civic tasks and to education. He gave freely of his time, asking no favors for himself. Mr. Everett was interested in his county, its people and their welfare, greeting everyone with a smile and a firm handshake.

Mrs. Everett preceded him in death in 1950. Surviving are a son, James A. Everett, Jr., of Palmyra; two daughters, Mrs. John H. Wieting of Texas and Mrs. A. T. Winslow of Palmyra; three brothers, R. O. Everett, prominent Durham attorney; B. B. Everett, widely known farmer in this State, and W. Robert Everett, of Macleod, N. C., widely known in agricultural circles throughout eastern North Carolina; three sisters, Mrs. Don Harrison, and Misses Hattie and Margaret Everett of the old Everett home near Palmyra; and four

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Named Principal Of Pender School

C. Wade Mobley, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Leonard Mobley of Bear Grass, was recently elected principal of the Creek Frazer School in Pender County for the coming term.

Following service in World War 11, Mr. Mobley attended and was graduated from A. C. College, Wilson, with an A. B. degree. He is married to the former Jean Bellingrath of Clinton, South Carolina, and they have two children. He and Mrs. Mobley are both attending summer school at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, working for masters' degrees in education and mathematics, respectively.

Before going with a sporting goods firm in Wilmington last year, he taught at Bolivia, N. C. Now he is returning to the teaching profession and at 26 years of age he will be one of the youngest principals of a consolidated school in this State.

Wife Uses Bottle To Beat Husband

Few details could be had about it, but a milk bottle attack climaxed an argument Abe Spruill, Jr., and his wife had at their home in Griffins Township about 3:00 o'clock Sunday morning.

The wife planted the bottle beside her husband's head, breaking the glass and cutting and bruising him. Following treatment in a local hospital, Spruill was placed in the county jail where he is being held for the Marines. Officers explained that the man was absent without leave from the Corps.

Facing Robbery Charge In Court

Charged with assault and robbery with firearms, Lon Hassell, young white man of Virginia Beach is being held under \$5,000 bond for trial in the Martin County Superior Court. James Beel, Virginia Beach taxi driver, is alleged to have aided and abetted the robbery, and he was also placed in jail in default of a \$5,000 bond.

The two men are said to have left the beach town yesterday morning about 4:00 o'clock and entered the home of Mrs. Frances Herriott here on Biggs Street where the alleged attack took place. It is alleged that Hassell forced Mrs. Herriott to write a check in the sum of \$500 which was later cashed at a local bank. The two men were taken into custody in Ashokic and returned here by officers.

Drawn on a Virginia bank, the check was made payable to Beel who allegedly tried to cash it at several places before the bank opened. Unable to get the cash, Beel is said to have returned to the home on Biggs Street where, reportedly with a pistol aimed at her head, the victim advised the bank by telephone to cash the check.

A preliminary hearing in the case is scheduled before Justice Chas. R. Mobley at 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning in the courthouse.