

## Tobacco Rolling In For First Sales Of The Season Thursday

### Indications Pointing To Successful Season

#### Four Warehouses Ready To Serve Farmers Of Area

#### Tobaccoists Pulling For \$55.00 Average Here Opening Day

Inactive these long months, the Williamston Tobacco Market is wide awake and all set and ready to launch its 52nd annual season on Thursday of this week. The houses were repaired and made ready some time ago, and the first of the new crop is now rolling into them in volume. Indications point to a near record if not a record sale on opening day.

No one knows and few will go all the way and declare their predictions for the opening season, but local tobaccoists are pulling for a 55-cent average here on Thursday. Some believe it will measure up to that point. Until the sale is complete, it is difficult to predict an average because the quality can vary. Judging from the first deliveries, this section, while marketing no superior quality leaf, is offering a better type of tobacco than that of a year ago. All indications point to a successful season for the Williamston market this year.

New patrons are being lined up, and it is almost dead certain that the market will exceed the 11,327,154 pounds sold last year. Marketing a better quality crop on the whole than they did last year, farmers will be disappointed if the average does not exceed the \$50.28 average received last year by five cents a pound, the lower support price not withstanding. On opening day last year the market sold 297,756 pounds for \$149,120, an average of \$50.08 per hundred pounds. Just about all the current crop has been harvested and while record sales are hardly expected during the first few days follow-

ing that the offerings will be larger than they were in the corresponding days last season.

Heading the sales division as supervisor for the first time this season, Mr. Vernon Bunting, farmer and experienced tobaccoist, stated today that the market is opening Thursday with a recognized selling organization and one of the best corps of buyers ever to follow a sale on any market. "We'll miss Mr. Arthur Beale, the congenial buyer for Washington Tobacco Company for a number of years, but the company will be ably represented," Mr. Bunting said in pointing out that there would be several other changes in the buying personnel.

Firmly establishing themselves as able judges of tobacco during long years in the business at the same old stands, the market operators are possibly better prepared.

### Another Tobacco Barn Destroyed

Fire, believed to have started when a fire joint exploded, destroyed a sixteen-foot curing barn and about three hundred and fifty sticks of tobacco on the H. H. Cowen farm near Williamston at 10:00 o'clock Monday morning. Other buildings nearby were threatened, but workers on the farm took stands on the roof and wet the sparks as they fell.

A barn attendant said he had examined the barn only a few minutes before the first started and everything seemed to be all right. A short time later he heard an explosion and fire was breaking through one end of the barn. Williamston's fire department answered a call there, but could do little.

It was the fifth curing barn to have been destroyed by fire in the county this season.

#### LEAD THE WAY

Farmers George and Romulus Revels led the way in helping launch the new tobacco marketing season when they drove into the first sale warehouse and unloaded a quantity of choice quality lugs early this morning. Other deliveries were reported yesterday, but the offerings were not unloaded immediately.

Following the Messrs. Revels were farmers from Bertie and Washington Counties and nearly all parts of this county. Twenty-five trucks were in the first sale house at one time this morning and the market was filling up fast despite damp weather.

### Storm Damage Is Felt In County

While no sweeping damage resulted, the hurricane that struck this section last Thursday night exacted a fairly heavy loss in some areas. The corn crop was greatly damaged but not ruined, estimates.

Quite a few trees were felled by the strong blow, and a few buildings were damaged by falling limbs. Stevenson's garage on the Jamesville Road lost its concrete block garage and a porch on Rhodes Street was smashed by a falling limb. No major power interruptions were experienced in this immediate area, but several feeder lines were knocked out when trees were uprooted and blown into the circuits.

Hugh Spruill reported 3.68 inches of rain fell here during Thursday and Thursday night. The eye of the storm is believed to have passed near Columbia and moved northward toward the Elizabeth City area.

miles an hour, were reported locally, reports declaring that the blow was stronger and the damage more extensive to the southeast.

Power company repair forces, supplemented by engineers and workers from other departments, worked around the clock repairing lines and restoring service in various parts of this and Washington and Tyrrell Counties.

Several store front awnings were damaged on the main street here.

The hurricane last week which did heavy crop damage did only minor damages of the kind that brings applications to Red Cross stated Mr. Asa Crawford, chairman Martin County Chapter, American Red Cross. However, the chapter stood ready to help if needed.

Red Cross is chartered by Congress to meet needs caused or aggravated by natural disasters which families cannot meet through their own resources. Crop losses do not fall into the category of Red Cross since government agencies take on this responsibility.

#### SCHOOL FOR VETS

Special farm training for all Korean war veterans will be offered in the Williamston High School, beginning in October, it was announced this week by Charles Hawley, teacher of agriculture, and Henry Winslow, instructor. The school will be adjusted to meet the requirements of all veterans in this immediate area, making it unnecessary for them to go long distances for the special training, it was explained.

Veterans interested in the program are directed to contact either Mr. Hawley or Mr. Winslow, 210 North Smithwick Street, Williamston, without delay.

### Vital Statistics In Martin County For Year Of 1952

#### Records Show 808 Births And 246 Deaths During The Period

According to certified records on file in the Martin County Register of Deeds office there were 808 births and 246 deaths in this county last year. While no new record is established, the number of births hold to figure slightly above normal while the death count maintains a slight downward trend.

The number of births among the colored population showed what is believed the greatest proportionate gain 479 colored births and 328 white births, a difference of 151. Most of the advantage held by the colored is traceable to illegitimate births, the records showing that there were 88 such births among the colored population in the county last year. The records also show that there were three illegitimate births among the white population. For the first time in a number of years, one Indian birth was included in the records in this county.

Illegitimacy among the colored population was aggravated by profligacy. One mother bore her fifth illegitimate child at the age of 18 years, according to the records. Another had her sixth illegitimate child last year at the age of 24. Then there was a 16-year-old mother who had her second illegitimate child last year. A record is believed to have been set by a 33-year-old unwed mother who gave birth to her 15th child in 1952. A 20-year-old mother had her seventh illegitimate child in 1952, and a 35-year-old mother was credited with her ninth illegitimate child during the period.

The records show that 424 of the 808 births took place in hospitals. The remaining 384 were born in homes, 186 of the little tots having been greeted upon their arrival by midwives.

A complete study of names was not made, but several stood out.

(Continued From Page Six)

### Mrs. Eva Gardner Died Saturday At Jamesville Home

#### Funeral Service Conducted At Home Monday Afternoon

Mrs. Eva Modlin Gardner, highly respected citizen of Jamesville Township died at her home there last Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. She had been in declining health for almost three years, undergoing hospital treatment at intervals during that period. Her condition was critical for several months.

The daughter of Horton Modlin and the late Etta Ange Modlin, she was born near Jamesville 41 years ago and lived in that community all her life, engaging in community activities and lending a willing support to the Cedar Branch Baptist Church where she held membership for a number of years.

In early womanhood she was married to Willie Mayo Gardner and continued to make her home in the Jamesville community.

Surviving besides Mr. Gardner and her father, are two sons, Willie Modlin of Jamesville and Floyd Stancill, U. S. Army stationed at Ft. Eustis, Virginia; a sister, Mrs. Joe A. Hardison of Jamesville; and six brothers, Wendell, Arnold and Arthur Modlin, all of Jamesville, Willie and Dennis Modlin, both of near Williamston, and Rexie Modlin of Plymouth.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Monday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock by her pastor, the Rev. W. B. Harrington, assisted by the Rev. Curtis Farmer of Aulander. Interment was in the Modlin family cemetery near the home.

### Leaf Prices On Georgia Markets

Demand eased and prices were lower last week on the Georgia-Florida flue-cured tobacco markets reports the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Quality of offerings was the lowest of the season. Volume dropped considerably as eighteen markets closed for the

### Former Resident Dies In Hospital

Mrs. Mary Barfield Edmondson, a resident of this county died in a Raleigh hospital last Saturday night following a long period of declining health. The daughter of the late Ephraim and Pattie Vick Barfield, she was born in Edgecombe County 87 years ago on February 10, 1866, and spent her early life there.

She was married three times, first to Jesse Haddock. Following his death she was married to Andrew Cherry and her third marriage was to Thomas Edmondson who died in 1933. She had been a patient in the hospital since 1951, making her home prior to that time in the Hassell community for a number of years and near Williamston. She is survived by a niece, Mrs. Fannie Knox, of H. J. Sell.

A devoted member of Riddick's Grove Baptist Church, she was held in high esteem by all who knew her. The funeral was conducted in the church there Monday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock by the pastor, the Rev. W. B. Harrington. Interment was in the Hardison Cemetery in Williams Township.

### To Offer Driver Education Course

For the first time students will be able to take Driver Education at the Williamston High School next term. Requirements for registration for the course are the student must be 15 years old or older on or before March 1, 1953 and the student must not have already past the state drivers test. The course will carry one-half unit of credit. Students interested in signing up for the course will indicate their interest by calling or writing Mr. B. G. Stewart, principal. Telephone 2051.

### Long-Range Farm Program Is Proposed In Martin County

#### Building Sets New Record Here During The Past Year

Building construction broke all records here last year, according to a report released by Building Inspector G. P. Hall. While the figures are now absolutely accurate, they reasonably reflect the building trend.

Construction costs added up to \$687,025 last year as compared with \$546,450 in 1951. The records show that more money was spent for construction in 1952 than in any other year on record.

Commercial construction reached a new high peak—\$340,300 last year when thirteen new commercial buildings were constructed. At the same time, home unit construction added to the 1951 figure of 44 homes, but the home construction costs last year were about \$22,000 under the \$346,700 figure for 1951.

Home construction, both in number and cost, reached its peak here in 1950 when 82 new homes were built at a cost of \$383,600. Last year the 44 new homes cost approximately \$324,825.00, according to the building inspector's records.

During the past five years, 260 new homes have been built inside the town limits at a cost of \$1,435,925. During that same period, 63 new commercial buildings were constructed at a cost of \$1,037,550.

No figures are available, but it is estimated that more than 100 new homes have been built during the past five years just outside the town limits, including the West End and North Haughton areas. Yet, there is still a demand for homes and more

### Buyers are Named For Local Market

With several changes in the personnel, Williamston's tobacco market is assured one of the best corps of buyers ever seen in operation here.

Several of the old buyers, including Messrs. Mack Lamb for the American, Roger Dillion for Reynolds, Alec Jones for J. P. Taylor Company, Joel Muse for Export, Jesse James for the W. I. Skinner firm, have already reported for work. Mr. James will also handle the Washington Tobacco Company accounts in the absence of Mr. Arthur Beale who is recovering from a heart attack.

Mr. Beale was on the market here for a number of years and made many friends during his stay.

Mr. Bell, a Kentuckian, is succeeding Don Case for the Leggett-Myers Company. Mr. Bell was on the Tarboro market last year. Mr. Case is being transferred to Washington.

### Market Caravan Well Received

The annual caravan, sponsored by the Williamston Boosters in the interest of the local tobacco market, was well received throughout the county last Friday, and all seemed to have enjoyed themselves.

Described as the most successful in several years, the caravan was greeted by sizable crowds at nearly all the stops on the schedule, and friendliness was evident at every place. Those who had traveled with the caravan for several years, declared it was a pleasure to run the route last Friday, explaining that the people in every town and community were most cordial, and seemed to enjoy the brief programs and favors.

The high school band scored one hit after another, and Ed Grady, executive secretary of the Boosters, and Vernon Bunting, the market's new sales supervisor, made timely and brief talks, and the 30-vehicle caravan moved along to the next stop. Urban Rogers and Blue Manning declared it was an eventful day all right.

### National Guard Unit Now Holding Summer Training

Battery C, 150th AAA Bt., pulled out of here on its own coneyances late last Saturday for Camp Stewart, Georgia. They met other units at Wilmington and formed a convoy from thereon to Georgia.

### Historical Story Of County Appears In Edition Today

#### Church History and Many Other Interesting Happenings Noted

The Enterprise, in its annual tobacco market edition today offers quite a few interesting stories surrounding the early history as it relates to the Primitive Baptist Church, other institutions and happenings in general.

Reporters spent days reviewing various histories and reading old newspapers in the State and University of North Carolina libraries at Raleigh and Chapel Hill. All available minutes of the Primitive Baptist churches at Skeerwarkey and Jamesville, graciously lent by Messrs. J. D. Bowen and Luther Hardison, were carefully studied and fitted into stories along with accounts taken from Hassell's and Biggs' histories.

The stories, unfortunately, are not grouped but appear in various parts of the edition along with others of various meaning and interest.

In one section there appears a story of the Skeerwarkey Church membership as it was uncovered from 1867 down to the present time. Rains and famine did not stop the Primitive Baptists in the 1840's, according to another story. Then there's a story of the first fatal train accident in the county. Accounts of weddings dating back more than sixty years and other events not previously reported in Martin County papers, appear in the edition today.

There's a story about ear-of-corn prophecy, and another about Senator Matt Ransom speaking in the county 63 years ago, this October. Yes, there were law violations back in the old days, and a few of them, copied from old papers published in nearby towns, are recorded in the paper today.

An unusual real estate is recalled in another story, and Hamilton is well represented in the old papers as a center of happenings in the old days. Martin County Democrats, supporters of Wm. J. Bryan, took a stand for silver coinage in 1896, according to another story published in the paper today.

Director Jack Butler and his young musicians were naturally disappointed that the hurricane should upset their plans but proceeded with the program because so many other things remain to be done that postponement of the concert was not practical.

The summer concert is always presented by the regular band members, a few newcomers, some graduate members and this summer was further enlarged by several Windsor musicians and one graduate of the Washington band who worked out with the group here this summer.

In addition to the scheduled program of marches, novelties, overtures, waltz medley and a descriptive patrol, three extra numbers were presented including a baritone solo featuring Turner Manning and the Billboard March featuring the twirling of Jackie Harris, head majorette at Wake Forest College. The Green Wave majorette corps was also presented in a twirling number.

The audience was enthusiastic in its reception of the concert and those attending expressed disappointment that it could not have been heard by all those who usually come from all over the area to enjoy the band music.

The annual picnic for the band and band parents will be held in the ball park this afternoon at 6:30 o'clock. A wire table has already been stretched for the food.

### Robbers Entered Bus Station Here

Forcing a side door, robbers entered the make-shift bus station on Washington Street here during Sunday night or early Monday morning.

Investigating the case, Chief John Roebuck said that a hammer, pair of pliers, \$1.25 in change and a small electric fan were missing from the station. No lead has been established in the case up until this morning.

### Minor Accidents During Week-end

No one was injured and property damage was held to less than \$500 in two minor street and road accidents in this county during the past few days. e. Driving a 1941 Chevrolet, Cyrus Delbert Pierce, 18 of Lee Hall, Virginia, started to turn into Lester Bland's driveway on the Price Mill road just as Thomas Russell Whitehurst of RFD 2, Robersonville, started to pass in his 1948 Dodge. The cars collided, causing about \$40 damage to the Chevrolet and about \$25 to the Dodge. The accident, investigated by a member of the Highway Patrol, took place about 6:00 o'clock last Friday evening.

Driving into Williamston on Highway 17 near Peeke's blacksmith shop, James Robt. Gurganus slowed or stopped his 1952 Pontiac for another car to make a turn and his car was struck from the rear by a gas truck driven by Wm. G. Arnold. No one was injured. Officer Chas. More, making the investigation, estimated the damage to the truck at \$250 and that to the car at \$100.

#### SCHEDULE

The local tobacco market will launch the 1953 marketing season at 9:00 o'clock Thursday morning and recess at 12:00 o'clock noon for lunch. Resuming sales at 1:00 o'clock the market will run until 3:30 o'clock or until 2:30 piles are sold. A maximum weight of 300 pounds is allowed for each pile.

### Summer Concert Given By Band

Presenting its annual summer concert, scheduled for the ball park but forced by bad weather to move into the high school auditorium, the "Summer Band" of Williamston High School last Thursday evening drew many enthusiastic supporters through high winds and heavy rains and rewarded them with an excellent

#### SECOND