

County Board In Short Meeting Monday Morning

But Little Results Are To Be Expected

Holding their first meeting of the new calendar year, the Martin County Board of Commissioners leisurely handled routine business and listened to requests for more and better roads.

Supported by lengthy petitions, the road requests included one for an addition to the system in the island section of Williams Township. It was pointed out that a new link would connect present roads, serve several families now virtually isolated and shorten the travel distance for others.

Another request calls for the State to work the road in Williams Township from Eli Brown's store to the Ulysses Brown home, a distance of about four-tenths of a mile. Four families live on the route.

The State is also being asked to work the Hoyt Lilly road in Griffins Township as a community project. The road is about four-tenths of a mile long.

Another petition asked for the widening and stabilizing of two miles of road in Jamesville Township, beginning at the residence of Mrs. Ada Brown and running to Rattler's Bridge on the Fairview road.

Goose Nest citizens asked for an improved road running from Green's Fork to Edmondson's Fork, a distance of 1.5 miles, and from Edmondson's Fork to Tew's siding, a distance of 1.1 miles.

The requests were heard and are being passed on to the State Highway Commission. Few results are expected from the petitions, since little work is being done on rural roads at this time.

The county division for dog vaccinations was slightly altered. Five townships, Jamesville, Williams, Griffins, Bear Grass and Williams, were assigned to Dr. R. A. Peele, and the five townships of Cross Roads, Robersonville, Poplar Point, Hamilton and Goose Nest, were assigned to Dr. W. F. Coggage. The vaccinations are to get underway earlier this year than in past seasons, it was explained.

Tax collector M. L. Peel stated that \$323,138.00 of the \$408,677.83 levy for 1953 had been collected, leaving a balance of \$84,939.03. The collector explained that up to the first of this month, 4,236 property owners had paid their taxes. A year ago, 3,846 had squared away their 1952 accounts. The 1953 collections were running

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Mrs. Ida Council Dies In Hospital

Mrs. Ida Council of Oak City died in a Raleigh hospital at 1:45 o'clock Monday morning following a long period of declining health. Her condition had been critical for several months.

The daughter of the late James Edmond and Gatsie Council, she was born in Edgecombe County 55 years ago. When about 15 years of age she moved to this county and was married to T. Hardy Council who died a few years ago.

Funeral services are being conducted in a Scotland Neck funeral home Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by the Rev. W. C. Medlin, pastor of the Oak City Baptist Church. Interment will be in the Oak City Cemetery.

Surviving are a son, James Hardy Council, of Oak City; two brothers, J. F. Council of Oak City, and G. W. Council of Norfolk, and two grandchildren.

NOISY WELCOME

The New Year was accorded a noisy welcome in this section, but there were no accidents to mar the first day of 1954.

A few bells were heard but the whistle cords were slack, leaving the merry-makers to frighten the life out of the 1954 lot with automobile horns.

Justice C. B. Riddick was again at the bell rope in the Everetts Baptist Church, ringing out the old and ringing in the new, a task he has handled for about a quarter century.

Numerous Accidents First Of The Year

COMMISSION

With a prepared survey ready for study, Williamston's recently appointed zoning commission is tentatively scheduled to hold its first official meeting tomorrow evening at 8:00 o'clock in the courthouse, it was learned today.

The commission, the first of its kind ever to function in the town, will study the survey and report to the officials.

Members of the commission are, Mrs. Edna Bondurant and Messrs. Walter Martin, W. B. Gaylord, J. H. Gurganus, and G. P. Hall.

Hamilton Resident Dies In Hospital

Mrs. Susan Bishop Douglas, a resident of Hamilton for the past four years, died in a Williamston hospital Saturday night at 11:30 o'clock. She had been in declining health for some time and critically ill during the past seven weeks which she spent in the hospital, suffering with a heart condition.

Mrs. Douglas was born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia 68 years ago on October 5, 1885. After making her home in Norfolk most of her life, she located in Hamilton four years ago, making her home with Miss Maggie Bell Jones. Her husband, the late Captain Smith Douglas, captained steamers up the Roanoke years ago for a long period and during that time she made and visited friends in Hamilton. A few years following the death of her husband, Mrs. Douglas chose to locate with friends in Hamilton. She was a daughter of the late Charles and Emma Callahan Bishop.

Brief funeral services were conducted in the Biggs Funeral Home Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, and the body was removed to the Graham Funeral Home in South Norfolk where the last rites were conducted Monday morning. Interment was in Riverside Cemetery in the Virginia city.

Surviving are five sisters, Mrs. Virginia B. Elliott and Mrs. Anna B. Ward, both of Norfolk, Mrs. Louise B. Watson of South Hill, Va., and Mrs. Lottie B. Belote and Mrs. Elmer Futch of Clermont, Florida; a brother, Charles H. Bishop, of Washington, D. C.

Husband Shot And Critically Hurt

Mistaken for a burglar, Joe Peele, respected blacksmith, was shot and critically wounded by his wife at their home here on Washington Street early last Saturday morning. Struck in the side with a pistol bullet, the 65-year-old smithy, continues dangerously ill in a local hospital.

The Peeles had heard prowlers around their home on several occasions, and sometime after Friday midnight, Peele, hearing the noise again, slipped quietly to the window and was raising the blinds when his wife heard him. She thought a burglar was raising the window, and quickly she snatched the pistol and fired the weapon.

Fire Call On Last Day Of The Year

Starting when an oil cook range went out of control, fire did considerable damage to the Peeewe Rascoe home on West Church Street her last Thursday morning at 11:30 o'clock. In addition to the fire damage, much of the furniture was battered and broken when neighbors started moving it out ahead of the fire. Most of the kitchen was burned and smoke filled the house, owned by Walter Johnson.

Using a water hose, members of the family and neighbors had the fire under control when members of the fire department reached there.

The call was the last one received by the local department in the old year.

Weather Review For Past Month In This Section

Mercury Drops To The Lowest Point Last Month In Several Years

While the mercury reached summer time levels a few times, wintery weather prevailed for the most part in this section last month, according to a review released by Bridgekeeper Hugh Spruill. Falling to 15 degrees on the 19th, the mercury that day reached its lowest reading recorded in this area during recent years.

Despite a heavier-than-usual fall last month, total rain for the year fell 3.51 inches short of normal. The Roanoke was tame during the period, reaching a low of 3.2 feet on December 2 and a high of six feet on the 17th.

The weather data, including the river gauge readings, as released by Mr. Spruill for the month of December follows, with the date in the first column, the river range 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.	5.0	68	36	0
2.	3.6	53	32	.03
3.	3.2	53	26	0
4.	3.9	63	23	0
5.	4.4	70	37	0
6.	4.6	75	52	.24
7.	4.6	71	41	0
8.	4.3	70	50	.14
9.	3.8	67	29	0
10.	3.6	73	43	0
11.	4.3	70	52	.14
12.	4.4	61	29	0
13.	4.6	69	44	0
14.	3.9	72	47	.17
15.	4.4	70	46	1.15
16.	3.5	53	35	0
17.	5.3	51	27	0
18.	6.0	47	25	.9
19.	5.5	30	16	0
20.	4.9	41	15	0
21.	4.6	54	20	0
22.	4.4	59	31	.15
23.	3.6	62	41	.05
24.	3.6	59	43	0
25.	4.9	45	29	.12
26.	5.0	36	22	0
27.	5.0	53	24	1.26
28.	4.4	54	24	0
29.	3.6	53	35	0
30.	3.6	55	46	.21
31.	3.9	57	52	.66
31.	5.6	56	41	.12

* Indicates Trace of Rain

A review of the rainfall for 1953 follows, by months:

1953 Rain	Normal	Above	Below
		Norm'l	Norm'l
Jan. 2.46	3.15		.69
Feb. 5.06	4.00	1.06	
Mar. 2.94	3.79		.85
Apr. 4.02	3.76	.26	
May 4.06	3.87	.19	
June 6.89	5.07	1.82	
July 1.29	5.70		3.41
Aug. 4.74	5.40		.66
Sept. 4.32	3.32	1.00	
Oct. .51	2.80		2.29
Nov. 2.25	2.46		.21
Dec. 5.04	3.78	1.26	
43.58	47.09		

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Little Accident Victim Improving

Suffering fractures of both legs just above the ankles in a tractor accident, Walter Ward Whitaker, five years old, was reported this week to be getting along well at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Whitaker, Sr., in Bear Grass Township.

The lad was riding on the tractor hitch while his brother was driving the machine. He caught his feet in the spokes, and had it not been for a quick stop, his body would have been pulled into the machine, it was stated. Following a stay of about a week in a local hospital, the little victim was able to return home.

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10.	3.6	73	43	0
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16.	3.5	53	35	0
17.	5.3	51	27	0
18.	6.0	47	25	.9
19.	5.5	30	16	0
20.	4.9	41	15	0
21.	4.6	54	20	0
22.	4.4	59	31	.15
23.	3.6	62	41	.05
24.	3.6	59	43	0
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July 1.29	5.70		3.41
Aug. 4.74	5.40		.66
Sept. 4.32	3.32	1.00	
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Assigned To The Revenue Office

Mr. Fred I. Walston has been assigned to the North Carolina Department of Revenue office in this county, and actively engaged upon his duties yesterday. A native of Tarboro, Deputy Collector Walston was transferred to this county from Waynesville. He has been with the department for almost eleven years, having taught school a number of years before going with the revenue division.

Mr. Walston, Mrs. Walston and their 6-year-old daughter, Bette, are making their home for the present with his brother, The Rev. Walston, and family.

Stolen Money Is Recovered

Three \$100 bills, stolen from the Peele and Peele Grocery in Hamilton last Wednesday, were recovered in a tobacco tin hidden in a stump hole in a woods later that day, with the exception of \$33 by the alleged rogue's sister.

Schedule Public Hearing On Bus Station

Woman Critically Wounded At "Red Rooster" Saturday

Angelo Highsmith, 19-year-old colored girl, was shot and critically wounded at the "Little Red Rooster" near Hassell last Saturday night at 10:00 o'clock when she refused to give John Adams, Jr., 23-year-old colored man, a date.

After going through the holiday season without a serious incident of any kind, the county listed the attack among other happenings, including seven motor vehicle accidents, accidental shooting, thefts and attacks.

Accompanied by two other girls, Nellie Highsmith and Nula V. Best, the Highsmith girl got a boy to take her from Bethel to the piccolo joint, a mile or two out of Hassell. Adams came there and asked for a date. When she refused, the man whipped out a .32 caliber automatic pistol from his shirt, pressed the barrel to her stomach and fired the weapon.

The bullet was said to have pierced the body without clipping an intestine. Removed to a Greenville hospital by Sherman Andrews, the victim was reported this week to be getting along as well as could be expected, that recover could be expected if no complications developed.

Adams, thinking he had killed the girl, ran away. Late that night when he learned she was still living, he heeded a call from Sheriff M. W. Holloman to surrender. Adams is being held in the county jail following medical treatment in Dr. Highsmith's office in Hamilton.

Hamilton Officer Victim Of Attack

Hamilton Township Constable Jas. S. Ayers was attacked and painfully hurt at Hamilton early last Saturday night. Although suffering an eight-stitch cut near his left ear, the officer, with Officer Maurice Lynch, delivered his attacker Collins Green, to the county jail following medical treatment in Dr. Highsmith's office in Hamilton.

Entering J. B. Everett's store in Hamilton, the constable heard an argument, and Green, partly intoxicated declared no one could arrest him. After asking the man to be quiet, the officer started to lead him out of the store. Once outside, Green struck the constable over the head with a quart beer bottle.

Green arranged a \$500 bond and was released from jail Sunday morning.

Agree To Keep Pink House Closed Here

A hearing at which the operator was to show cause why her place of business should not be padlocked permanently was delayed in Nashville before Judge Walter Bone last Thursday when it was reported that the operator had voluntarily agreed not to open the place.

However, late yesterday no agreement had been signed, and the fate of the West End business is not certain.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Motorists rode out the old year, leaving behind a mixed record, a record showing increased respect for limb and property but less considerate of human life than they were in 1952. Hardly before the old record was closed new entries started appearing in the one for 1954.

1953 1 1 0 \$ 1,000
1952 2 0 0 400
1953 235 85 6 \$67,840
1952 300 126 1 96,325

Call For Study Of Needs In The Schools Of County

The Martin County Board of Education in a meeting Monday called for a study by the district committees of the needs in all the schools. During the meantime, the education board is pushing plans for the construction of a new Negro high school in Robersonville to replace the one destroyed by fire in Parmele early last fall.

J. W. Griffith was appointed the architect to draft the plans and supervise the construction. A contract, financed from State funds, will be entered into just as soon as possible for the construction of the building. A site has been purchased and construction should be under way on the building by early spring. Based on

Thieves Run Wild In Martin County

X-RAYS

Beginning tomorrow, health authorities will renew their efforts to track down and stamp out tuberculosis in Martin County. Mobile X-ray units are to be stationed in various parts of the county until January 23, and everyone is invited and urged to take advantage of the free examination.

New Ford To Go On Display Here

The 1954 Ford passenger cars, to be introduced to the public in Ford dealers' showrooms all over the nation Wednesday, January 6, will feature the following Ford exclusives in the high volume field:

An entirely new 130-h. p. Y-block V-8 engine with overhead valves.

A new 115-h. p. I-block Mileage Maker Six engine, noted for economy.

New ball-joint front suspension which Ford engineers call the greatest advance in front suspension in 20 years.

The Skyliner—an entirely new hardtop model with tinted, transparent plastic roof over the driving compartment.

A smart new Ford Sunliner convertible with an unusual transparent plastic panel inserted in the top over the front seat to provide overhead visibility.

Four new power-operated driving assists: Power brakes, power steering 4-way power seat, Fordomatic transmission.

The two new Ford engines for 1954—the Y-block V-8 and the I-block Mileage Maker Six—were designed expressly to lead their respective fields and have been under development for the past six years. L. D. Cruse, vice-president, Ford Motor Company and general manager of Ford Division, said.

Final Reports On Crop Drive

Filing a final report on the "Crop"—Christian Rural Overseas Program—County Chairman Mayo Hardison said yesterday that a total of \$2,569.56 had been raised for the suffering in distant lands. In addition to the cash contributions, much clothing was donated for distribution overseas.

A review of the contributions as released by Chairman Hardison follows, by districts:
Goose Nest, \$235.50; Hamilton, 272.17; Williams, 170.00; Cross Roads, 171.10; Poplar Point, 157.25; Jamesville, 102.82; Bear Grass, 221.09; Griffins, 303.45; Robersonville, 486.70; Williamston, 415.19; Macedonia Church, 34.38.

Town Board Held Regular Meeting Here Last Night

Rumors About Members Of Police Department Are Ruled Unfounded

After stating its position before meetings of the local governing body and the North Carolina Utilities Commission in Raleigh, opposition to the location of a bus terminal back of the George Reynolds Hotel on South Smithwick Street is being called upon to state its stand again. This time, a public hearing is to be held in the county courthouse next Monday evening at 8:00 o'clock. At that hour the opposition will be given an opportunity to advance or withdraw its objections. The hearing is being requested by attorneys representing the bus companies who point out that certain changes will be considered.

No vote was taken at the meeting last night when the local town commissioners discussed the matter in regular session. However, it was pointed out that the physical conditions had not changed, but at least one member of the board favored the location and others agreed that it would be fair to the bus companies to hold the public hearing.

While all the argument centers on a site, condemnation is centering on the present bus terminal facilities, and it has been declared that the town will not live down to two generations the miserable shortcomings that have marked bus operations at this point for years.

Several applications for taxi licenses were received and rejected. A 45-foot strip was offered to the town for extending West Main Street from Roberson Street to the canal. The offer was conditionally accepted, the donors to present their offer with proven deeds of transfer. The town, it will be remembered, only recently was called upon to pay for a street that was deemed to it and later found to be a "double-decker". In short, when property owners had their claims satisfied the claims extended into the street.

Requests made for sewer line extensions are to be met when possible. Town Treasurer C. M. Cobb reported that there was a cash balance of \$60,523.06 on hand, including \$4,394.74 in the sewer rental fund and \$13,995.68 in the street fund. He also reported that \$70,410.29 had been collected in 1953 taxes, and that the income from sewer rentals last month amounted to \$913.50. Parking meter revenue was listed at \$641.50.

Rumors circulating around two members of the police department were ruled out as being unfounded. All kinds of reports have been circulated, but the sources could not be determined, and the officers were given a hearing at the meeting last night, and they announced.

Officers in the two cases searched the markets and found where the peanuts and beans had been sold. Learning the name of the seller, they made the arrests last night.

Recovering From Severe Burns

Back and arms, Miss Norma Faye Bailey, 16, of Bear Grass, was reported improving in a local hospital yesterday. She has been a patient in the hospital for about three weeks.

Miss Bailey was standing near a heater when her clothing caught fire, it was reported.

ROUND-UP

There was a fairly definite trend toward larceny as the old year went out and the new one came in, according to a report coming from the sheriff's office