

Victory In Fight Against Infantile Paralysis Nearer

Turning Point Two Years Ago In Long Battle

The 1954 March of Dimes should make the greatest appeal to American public in the history of the long war on polio. The reason is that medicine now stands on the threshold of the conquest of infantile paralysis.

Those who have faithfully supported this mighty crusade in past years can draw new enthusiasm and stimulation from the fact that this is the year in which their contributions will do the most good. Victory may be in sight.

There seems every reason to believe that a safe vaccine, now being tested to prove its effectiveness, may be available to protect our children against polio in the near future.

Meanwhile, large-scale trials in the summers of 1951 and 1952 have established the fact that gamma globulin, a derivative of human blood containing disease-resisting antibodies, is a stopgap weapon in epidemics, providing protection against paralytic polio for about five weeks in most cases.

Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, reports that the Foundation spent \$5,500,000 for community use of GG in 1953. During 1954, he says, \$19,000,000 will be needed to provide gamma globulin for use during epidemics; an additional \$7,500,000 will be required in 1954 for determining the effectiveness of a trial polio vaccine recently developed by March of Dimes-supported scientists.

Turning Point 2 Years Ago
The turning point in the war on polio came two years ago with two announcements at the Second International Polio Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. I was present and I still remember the thrill of excitement that engulfed delegates from all parts of the world when the full import of these accomplishments was made plain at the closing session of the conference.

One was the demonstration that all the strains of polio virus encountered so far in all parts of the earth belonged to three types, so that a vaccine against polio would have to be all-inclusive.

The other was the development of a technique by which polio virus could be grown in unlimited quantities in test tubes containing bits of non-nervous tissue. Until then research had been exceedingly difficult and complex because practically all experiments required the use of live monkeys.

Open Way for Vaccine
These two advances opened the way for the attainment of an adequate vaccine.

Research of equal importance is going forward today to find a drug that will inhibit the growth of the polio virus. It is now known that the virus enters the digestive tract and multiplies there before invading the nervous system. An adequate drug would stop the virus before it could cause paralysis.

But even though the menace of polio were ended tomorrow, there would still be the need of March of Dimes campaigns to finance the tremendous task facing the National Paralysis in taking care of the thousands of victims of the epidemic.

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Start The March Of Dimes In The County

Chairmen Explain Plans of Annual Drive Completed



M/Sgt. Woolard F. Strickland native of Martin County and missing in action in Korea since November 26, 1950, is now presumed dead, according to an announcement release by the Army last week-end. Nothing has been heard from the young man since he was reported missing more than three years ago.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Strickland, he was born in this county in April, 1929, and attended the Williamston and Robersonville schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Strickland lived on the W. Barcl Daniel farm between Williamston and Everetts before moving to the Parmele section, later locating on RFD 2, Battleboro.

Sgt. Strickland had served twenty-one months in the service, and was one of six Martin County young men who laid down their lives in the Korean conflict.

Other Martin County young men who lost their lives in Korea include: Pvt. J. R. Bullock, Sgt. James H. Ellis, Cpl. Harry Paul Roberson, Cpl. John H. Garrett, and Cpl. Oscar Lee Little. Fourteen others were wounded, and still another was taken prisoner by the Reds and still released.

'No one was injured and little property damage resulted when two cars were in collision at the intersection of Church and Smithwick Streets here Sunday afternoon at 3:45 o'clock.

C. S. Griffin was driving his Mercury west on Church Street and Howard T. Simpson was driving Elliott Bullock's Mercury on Smithwick toward Main when the right front fender locked horns with the left front fender of the other machine. Some damage was done to the Griffin car radiator and it had to be towed away.

Combined damage was estimated at about \$100 by officer Bill Haislip who made the investigation.

Winston Cargile, agent for the A. C. L. Railroad at Parmele, was painfully injured in an automobile accident near Lees in Pitt County early Sunday morning.

Details of the accident could not be learned immediately, but it was reported that his car went out of control and turned over. He suffered lacerations about the head and face. It was said that twenty stitches were necessary to close the cuts. He was treated in the Ward Clinic, Robersonville and continued to his home in Parmele.

A special demonstration for the control of nematodes and weeds in tobacco plant beds will be given on the farm of Commissioner Henry S. Johnson, Hamilton, on Thursday afternoon of this week at 2:00 o'clock, it was announced by Farm Agent T. B. Brandon. The demonstration will feature the gas treatment.

All farmers and others interested are invited to attend.

Minor Accidents On County Roads

While motorists piled up the wrecks in other areas after sleet and snow fell, vehicle operators went ahead and had their accidents

roads were left over. Two minor accidents were reported Monday afternoon on rural roads in the county but no one was injured and the property loss was negligible.

At 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon on the old Greenville road in Cross Roads Township near the Marion Griffin home, Zack S. Cowin, driving a pick-up truck, crashed into the rear of a school bus when the brakes on his vehicle failed to take hold. Mr. Cowin was running only about fifteen miles an hour when the bus, operated by Arthur Purvis out of Parmele, slowed down to discharge passengers. No one was hurt and there was no damage to the bus. Damage to the pick-up was estimated at about \$75.

Two hours later on the 5-cent road in Bear Grass Township, two vehicles, one driven by Lewis R. Taylor and the other by Jesse Irving Taylor, crashed at Lewis Taylor's driveway, causing about \$50 damage to his 1946 Chevrolet and about \$85 damage to Jesse Taylor's 1950 Ford.

Although ice covered many roads in the county last night and early today, the highway patrol reported no accidents in this county following the minor crash at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Chairman Baker said that R. McK. Edwards would head the Negro division in the county.

The following co-workers, including chairmen in the various districts and schools, were announced this week: Williamston business district, Geo. W. Corey, F. E. Weston, J. C. White and Howard Bowen; schools, B. G. Stewart and Ruth Manning.

Robersonville business district, I. M. Little; schools, C. B. Martin and M. M. Everett.

Everetts business district, (to be named); schools, E. G. Morrow.

Oak City business district, N. Lawrence Hyman; schools, Geo. P. Cullipher.

Hamilton business district, Norman Everett; schools, Geo. S. Haislip.

Jamesville business district, P. C. Blount; schools, William C. Gay.

Farm Life area, R. Dewey Perry, Mrs. Bruce Peel, Oscar B. Roberson; schools A. H. Braswell.

The chairmen said that possibly other workers would join in the task later this week.

Coin collectors have been placed in business establishments throughout the county.

Direct mail appeals will go out later this week.

Climaxing the drive in the county this year will be the Mothers' March on Polio. Mrs. George W. Nicely, Jr., is Williamston's chairman of the march which is (Continued on Page Six)

Parmele Man In Auto Accident

Demonstration

All farmers and others interested are invited to attend.

Hotel Property Ruled Out As Site For Local Bus Station

Open Meeting On X-Ray Over Two Thousand Record Against Station Location

Several Locations Available But No Action Taken To Select Site

The George Reynolds Hotel property on North Smithwick Street was in certain terms ruled out as a possible bus station site in an open meeting held in the courthouse here last evening, a town official explaining that the matter was closed and was not subject to be reopened again. The action, ruling out the property as a station site, was taken when the meeting, attended by sixty or more interested citizens, spoke against the location and then supported their position by a standing vote which included more than 90 percent of those in attendance.

Said to have entered into a contract with the owners to lease the property, the bus operators are now believed to be in a position to look elsewhere for a location. Several sites are available, but as far as it could be learned today no action has been taken, looking toward the selection of a site.

During the meantime, operations are being maintained as advantageously as possible under the most unfavorable conditions in the little wooden box next to the Carolina warehouse on Washington Street.

No organized opposition was offered at the meeting last night, but individuals were quick to take to their feet and state their positions.

Opening the meeting, Mayor Robt. Cowen explained that the matter was believed to have been settled when the town commissioners went on record against it following a hearing held before the State Utilities Commission in Raleigh last fall. When the meeting was ended last night, the board with Commissioners N. C. Green, Lemar Barnhill, and David Moore present, chose not to reverse the stand taken several months ago.

Mayor Cowen read a letter from Attorney Wheeler Martin who opposed the location. Mr. Martin, in his letter, referred to the congested area, and pointed out that traffic making a left turn off Main into North Smithwick Street was using the sidewalk to complete the turn. He also mentioned the danger to the approximately 400 school children who use the sidewalks daily, and pointed out the problems the taxis would create.

In another letter read by Mayor Cowen, the Baptist Church Board of Deacons withdrew its opposition, but it was explained that individuals were free to express their personal opinions. It was brought out that the board of deacons met with bus company representatives last Friday evening, and that the bus operators had agreed to alter their routes and provide for taxi parking with the assurance that the station would be operated in an orderly manner.

Elbert S. Peel, Jr., representing the bus companies, stated that it was not planned to "bulldoze" the location over the opposition, but (Continued on Page Five)

Local Mothers On Polio March

Going into action in a big way in this community for the first time, local mothers, under the chairmanship of Mrs. George Nicely, will join the Polio March on January 29, it was announced today by County Chairman Marvin Baker, Mesdames J. S. Rhodes, Jr., and J. Paul Simpson.

Plans for the Mothers' March will be released within the next few days.

Herring Season Opened At Jamesville Friday Morning

It is getting more difficult by the day to tell what's what. The latest state of confusion involves Roanoke River fishermen who can't decide when the herring season closes or when it begins.

Fishermen James Herbert Ward and Chas. A. Peele caught a herring in the Roanoke near Williams-ton late in the fall. And they caught the fish on a hook and line. The catch was most unusual for that time, and the manner it was effected was even more unusual. Since it is difficult to determine when the season ends or begins, credit must go to Ward and Peele for catching the last herring in the Roanoke in 1953, but the honors for the first catch in 1954 goes to Henry Girvin who dipped two nice herrings from the stream at Jamesville last Friday morning followed by a catch of six a short time later. And when the first herring are taken from the Roanoke, spring can't be far behind.

C. C. Fleming, operating a fishery on a large scale, is making ready his nets for another season which is tentatively scheduled to get under way in March. The fishery made large catches last year, but they were confined mostly to herring.

While preparations are being made to take herrings, other types of fishing are being handled on the river, some with fair success.

Large Increase Reported In The 1953 Farm Debt

American Agriculture Has Value of One Fifty-Six Billion Dollars

(From The Federal Reserve Monthly Review)
Total assets of American agriculture, including all physical as well as financial assets owned by farm operators, were valued at \$156.4 billion on January 1, 1954—a decline of 5 percent from a year earlier. Declines are indicated in the value of both farm real estate and other physical assets. Farm financial assets on the other hand (primarily bank deposits, currency, and United States savings bonds) appear likely to total slightly more than \$22 billion—up about 1 percent over 1953.

While the value of farm assets declined in 1953, the volume of farm debt increased about \$800 million or 55 percent. Farm real estate debt totaled about \$7.8 billion on January 1, 1954, or about 9 percent above a year earlier. In addition there was a slight increase in farm non-real-estate debt, with all of the gain resulting from a sharp expansion of price support loans held or guaranteed by the Commodity Credit Corporation. Other non-real-estate debt is declining for the country as a whole—the result of lower livestock prices, fewer purchases of farm machinery, a more cautious attitude on the part of both borrowers and lenders, and some refinancing of short-term debt with real estate mortgages.

General Economy to Decline
In the words of one of the speakers from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at the recent National Agricultural Outlook Conference, "With demands from some segments of the economy leveling off and in a few instances declining, there is a real possibility that the total demands on the economy in 1954 may be less than and employment that appears to be in prospect for 1954 is small." Although this analysis of future business conditions is relatively optimistic, it was within this framework that the analysis of the agricultural situation for 1954 was developed.

Farm economists at the outlook conference well find that the indications are for a continuation of the cost-price squeeze on the American farmer. Both gross income and total farm production expenses are expected to be a little smaller in 1954 than in 1953. It is doubtful, however, that expenses will drop as much as receipts, so that a slight further reduction in realized net income may be expected.

Commodity Highlights
The demand for cigarette types of tobacco is expected to continue strong in 1954, even though the regular increase in cigarette production characteristic of recent years leveled off in 1953 and may change little in 1954. Cotton supplies are large, and acreage controls in 1954 appear likely to force a substantial reduction in cotton acreage.

According to the BAF, a continued large slaughter but more price stability for cattle is in prospect for 1954. Hog production will increase with some lowering in prices as the result of the larger spring pig crop come to market. Prices of lambs are not likely to change much and may remain slightly above an average relationship to cattle prices. Retail prices for dairy products have declined only slightly in the past twelve months, while prices received by farmers for milk and butterfat have dropped 13 percent. Prices (Continued on Page Six)

Three Injured In Friday Accident

Three persons were injured, none of them believed badly, in a two-car collision about three miles out of Williamston on Highway 125 last Friday evening about 6:20 o'clock.

Driving toward Hamilton in a 1952 Dodge, James Clifton Wiggins of North Biggs Street, Williamston, crashed into a 1953 Plymouth being driven by William Thompson, also of Williamston. Thompson was driving toward Williamston and both cars were in a curve. The Thompson car was turned almost around in the crash.

Thompson lost several teeth and suffered lacerations about the mouth and an eight-stitch gash on his leg. Dorothy Fagan was slightly hurt, but they were able to leave the hospital following treatment. Wiggins, bruised a bit, was cut slightly on the eye lid, but his injuries were classed as minor ones.

Damage to each vehicle was estimated at \$1,000.

The accident was one of several reported on county highways in recent days.

Begin Work On Guard Armory

Work on the new armory home from Battery C, 150th AAA Gun Battalion was started here last Thursday when Frank Christopher, construction superintendent for W. G. Dunn, contractor, started placing the stakes for the foundation for the \$100,000 structure.

Mr. Christopher, who recently completed the construction of a National Guard armory at Zebulon, stated last week-end that materials are to be placed on the lot without delay and that work on the foundation is scheduled to get underway shortly.

It is planned to complete the construction work by late spring or early summer, the superintendent said.

BANGS SPOT CHECK

Checking on Bang's disease among cattle, Dr. G. S. Bradshaw is working in more than 200 cattle herds in this county. Owners of either beef or dairy cattle interested in having their herds checked, are directed to contact the county agent's office immediately. The work was started this week.

Sent to the county by the United States Department of Agriculture, Dr. Bradshaw has been assigned to the present task for a period of about six weeks, County Agent Tom Brandon said.

ROUND-UP

Eight persons were rounded up and jailed for alleged violation of various laws in this county last week-end. There were no larceny cases in the group.

Three persons were charged with public drunkenness, and one each for speeding, drunken driving, operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, violating the liquor laws and issuing a worthless check.

Three of the eight were white and the ages of the group ranged from 19 to 58 years.

Marriage Licenses Are Issued In The County

Two marriage licenses, about the first of the new year, were issued in this county last Saturday to two couples by Register of Deeds J. Sam Gentsinger.

Licenses went to: V. E. Duncan, 1600 Gleen St., Dallas, Texas, and Nellie M. Pridden of Nags Head; Archie Benjamin Hardison and Marie Goodrich, both of Hassell.