

## Several Wrecks On County Roads During Week-End

### No One Badly Injured In Accidents Reported In This County

No one was badly hurt but property damage, estimated at \$1,650 resulted in a series of four motor vehicle accidents on the roads in this county during the past week-end. A Robersonville man, Mr. Jesse Taylor, 35, suffered a six-stitch cut under his left eye and was painfully bruised about the head and shoulder when his car, a 1951 Chevrolet, went out of control and turned over on a Pitt County road between Leens and the Big Oak road about 10:15 o'clock Sunday night. The car was a complete loss, according to reports.

The first in the series of accidents on the highways in this county was reported at 9:40 o'clock last Friday morning when William Roberson, Williamston young man, tried to miss striking a pig and dived his 1953 Mercury, causing about \$600 damage to the machine. Roberson was driving on the Williamston-Bear Grass road near the Mack Leggett home when the pig, weighing hardly more than 50 pounds, ran into the road. After striking the pig, the car swerved into a ditch, jumped out and came to a stop in another ditch. Roberson was not hurt, a member of the highway patrol said.

Joe L. Durham, 38-year-old colored man of RFD 1, Robersonville, lost control of his 1948 Chevrolet when it skidded on the ice in a curve near Butler's bridge on Highway 125 early Sunday afternoon. The machine went into a ditch. Damage was estimated at \$50.

A blue Studebaker was ditched at the intersection of Highways 903 and 125 near Spring Green Sunday night about 10:00 o'clock. Complete details could not be had immediately. It was estimated that the damage would exceed \$400.

Driving on the Everetts-Bear Grass road about 11:00 o'clock Sunday night LeRoy Leggett of RFD 2, Williamston, lost control of his 1952 Ford pick-up in a curve. After skidding 147 yards, the machine turned over, coming to a stop about 65 feet farther down the road. Leggett was bruised but not badly hurt, according to reports. Damage to his truck was estimated at \$600.

A 1950 Buick, driven by William Thomas Roberson and owned by his father, John Alfred Roberson, caught fire and burned on a gravel road to the Farm Life section last Tuesday night. The fire, starting around the carburetor, burned all but the two front wheels, it was reported.

## Local Man's Car Damaged By Fire

Starting under the dash board, fire badly damaged the 1951 Dodge car, owned by George W. Joyner, local colored man, shortly after 1:07 o'clock Sunday morning a short distance across the Roanoke River bridge on Highway 17.

Joyner said he was driving along when the engine went dead. He got out and raised the hood and fire greeted him. A driver of a Norfolk Southern bus, driving just behind Joyner, tried to put the fire out with an extinguisher. During the meantime, Williamston's fire department was called and firemen put the fire out before it could spread to other parts of the car. A general alarm was sounded.

### ROUND-UP

All was fairly quiet on the crime front in this county during the past week-end, the sheriff's office reporting only four arrests. However, a robbery was reported in Williamston. Two of the four arrested and jailed were charged with public drunkenness and one each with an assault and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license. One of the four was white and the ages of the group ranged from 18 to 51 years.

## February 1 Last Day Old Auto Tags Will Be Valid

On and after next Tuesday, owners displaying old State and town licenses tags on their motor vehicles will be subjected to arrest and conviction in the courts. No warnings will be given, it was explained. The license tags have been on sale since December 1, and it is assumed that vehicle owners have had ample time to purchase and display their new 1954 plates.

While the tag sales here are far from complete, they are running well ahead of those a year ago. The license bureau maintained in the insurance offices of Harrison and Carstarphen in Williamston under the auspices of the Carolina Motor Club, has handled the sale of 4,753 licenses, including all types, to date as compared with

### FARM SCHOOL

Plans for a big county-wide farm school are just about complete for Martin County, the office of the county agent announced this week.

The Extension Service is sending five or more farm specialists to this county to conduct the school, which will be held in the courthouse next Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a. m. to 12, noon, and from 1:30 to 3:30 p. m. each day.

Timely and important topics are to be discussed and Martin farmers are urged to attend in numbers with the assurance that the discussions will be of great value.

## Harvey Perkins Burned To Death

Harvey Perkins, 49-year-old colored man, lost his life early last Friday morning when fire destroyed a vacant tenant house on the Stevenson farm recently purchased by him near the high school athletic field in Robersonville.

Details of the tragedy are not known, but Coroner W. W. Biggs and Robersonville police are of the opinion no foul play was involved.

Living just across the field, Perkins saw the fire in the two-story tenant house about 3:00 o'clock that morning. After locking the door he hurried from his home to the fire which was burning rapidly in the front section of the house. Perkins apparently entered the back door, the nearest as he approached there. Nothing was heard from him, and about noon Saturday his wife appealed to Police Chief Wm. Smith. A search was started and the skull and a few other bones were found under a piece of tin in the ashes. The key to his home was also found, and Coroner Biggs and officers identified the charred bones by it.

## Funeral Saturday For Mrs. Bowen

Funeral services held at the home here on West Main Street last Saturday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mrs. Carrie Rogerson Peaks Bowen who died in a Durham hospital last Thursday morning at 7:30 o'clock. Her pastor, the Rev. Chas. Hamilton, Free Will Baptist minister of Pitt County, and Elder A. B. Ayers conducted the rites. Interment was in the Bowen family cemetery.

Mrs. B.Z. Bowen was born in Bear Grass Township 57 years ago on April 27, 1896, the daughter of the late Will and Molly Godfrey Whitehurst Rogerson. When quite young she was married to Wheeler Peaks and made her home for many years in Williamston Township on the Price Road. Following her marriage on January 1, 1946, to Mr. James D. Bowen, she had made her home in Williamston.

Surviving besides Mr. Bowen are two sons, Jodie and Arthur Peaks; seven daughters, Mrs. Earl Bonds, Mrs. Hayward Price, Mrs. C. B. Whitehurst, Mrs. Bruce Leggett and Mrs. Simon Lilley, Jr. all of or near Williamston, and Mrs. Vernon Phelps of Robersonville and Mrs. Ollie Faison of Raleigh.

## Washington Street Supermarket Will Open January 28

### S and V Firm On Washington Street Most Modern In This Section

Messrs. Morris Stalls and John F. VanLandingham are opening a modern supermarket in the building formerly occupied by the Wier Furniture Exchange here on Washington Street Thursday morning at 8:00 o'clock.

Preparations for the opening have been under way for weeks, and the finishing touches are being made, the owners explaining that all will be in readiness for the event.

One of the largest and most modern in this section, the new supermarket is extensively equipped, including a 21-foot seafood, poultry and meat counter, an eight-by-ten foot walk-in cooler, and eleven-foot frozen meat box still another eleven-foot dry produce counter and still another eleven-foot refrigerated counter for produce. Dairy products are conveniently displayed in a six-foot refrigerated box with triple storage.

In charge of the meat counters, Mr. VanLandingham explained that his firm would handle the finest meats of all kinds.

Grocery items are neatly and attractively arranged on the more than 200 feet of shelving, the owners announcing that the stock includes the nationally-known brands and that the items run into the thousands.

The building has been renovated with adequate storage space in the rear. Rubber composition tile has been placed on the floors, and departments have been attractively marked in red letters against a harmonizing color scheme on the walls and the celotex ceiling. It is quite evident that the owners have shared no expense in making ready one of the most modern supermarkets in this section.

The firm is the first to recognize and do something about the parking problem here. Purchasing additional property, the store operators are providing parking space for about forty cars in a lot conveniently located at a main side entrance. In addition to the special lot parking, eight or more cars can be parked right at the front entrance. A two-way drive is being opened to connect Washington and Sycamore Streets and an entrance may be gained from either street to the side or front door where check-out counters are located, one at the side entrance and two near the front door.

Both Mr. Stalls and Mr. VanLandingham are experienced in the business. Mr. Stalls operated the Sunny Side grocery and market for several years, and Mr. VanLandingham managed the meat department for other firms.

In connection with the opening this week, the store will hold a registration through February 13 when a Halicater television set will be given away along with thirty baskets of groceries to the lucky registrants. A Westinghouse steam iron will be given away on Saturday of this week. The public is invited to visit the store and register.

## Dr. James S. Rhodes Improving In Hospital

Suffering with arthritis and quite ill for weeks, Dr. James S. Rhodes, Sr., prominent local physician, was reported responding to treatment in a Richmond hospital this week. He plans to return home within the next week or ten days.

### JAMESVILLE MARCH

The Mothers' March of Dimes for Jamesville is scheduled for Thursday evening of 7:00 and 8:00 o'clock, it was announced.

Officers of the Woman's Club, the sponsoring organization, are appealing to the people of the town to leave their porch lights burning as a beacon for the canvassers. The Infantile Paralysis Foundation is pleading for increased funds to finance new immunization tests in many sections of the nation and to care for old and new cases, and a liberal response is urged.

## Club Members In County Planning For Stock Shows

### Exactng Regulations Were Adopted At Meeting Held Recently

At least forty-two 4-H Club members and Future Farmers of America are preparing for the annual fat stock show to be held in this county next spring. Assistant County Agent Larry Hodges announced following a meeting of extension leaders and vocational agriculture teachers and interested citizens held a few days ago.

It is planned to exhibit 42 calves and sixty or more hogs in the show. An added feature for the 1954 event will be a hog carcass demonstration, Mr. Hodges said.

It was also announced that exacting regulations will be in effect for the 1954 show and sale. The committee will not attempt to promote the sale of any calves grading commercial, it was explained, meaning that the youthful exhibitors will find it necessary to work hard to have their entries qualify for favorable places in the show.

The youthful club members who plan to enter exhibits in the show include the following 4-H Club members:

Dorothy Price, Rodney Revels, Robert Lee Perry, Pearl Perry, Jerry Hopkins, Sylvia Peery and Margaret Hopkins, all of Williamston; Elane Revels, Katherine Rogerson, Hayward Rogerson, Jr., and Phillip Taylor, all of Bear Grass; William Lilley, J. C. Griffin, Jr., Murl Griffin, Mike Griffin and Charles Hough, all of Jamesville;

Paul Johnson, Jr., of Robersonville; Billy Everett of Hamilton; Donnie V. Smith of Oak City.

The following Future Farmers of America are planning to exhibit calves in the show:

Johnnie Griffin, Marion Griffin, Billy Bailey and John Griffin, all of Robersonville; Jimmy Hopkins, Ward Perry, Henry Rogers and Thomas Revels, all of Williamston; Billy Lilley, Ronnie Coburn, Larry Mobley, William Hardison and Josh Hardison, all of Jamesville;

Smitty Haislip, John Beach, Cecil Brown, Jr., Lester Early, Wallace Smith and Sidney Purvis, all of the Oak City Chapter.

Four colored youths, James W. Slade, Rudolph Parker, James Parker and Frank Cherry, plan to participate in the show.

## Plan To Resume Its Operations

Suspended temporarily while inventories are being checked and machinery reconditioned, operations at the Martin Manufacturing Company plant in Robersonville are to be resumed on a full scale within a few days, according to a report coming from the management yesterday. Already workers, idle since Monday of last week, are being recalled, it was learned.

Martin Stienburg, manager was quoted this week as saying that his company had sufficient orders to keep the plant operating for at least six months. "The unexpected could happen, but we are not anticipating any material decrease in business now or in the future, and we are confident we will be operating full time within a few days," Mr. Stienburg said.

## Industry Lost To Williamston

The Norris Grain Company of Chicago, one of the largest in the field, is locating a quarter million bushel capacity plant in Elizabeth City, a recent report stating that the company would start work on the elevator immediately.

The company had chosen Williamston as a site for the plant, but a land obstacle was encountered and the representatives turned elsewhere. Efforts were made to remove the obstacle when representatives of the town went to the firms New York office, but a solution apparently was advanced too late.

## End Tuberculosis Survey In This County Saturday

Approximately one out of every five persons was X-rayed in a tuberculosis survey conducted in this county during the past eighteen days by the State Board of Health in cooperation with the Martin County Health Department Tuberculosis Association.

Health authorities had set a minimum goal of 7,000 X-rays, but only 6,580 pictures were made, it was learned. However, considering the unfavorable weather conditions existing during most of the time the mobile X-ray units were in the county, the survey was successful.

During the period the survey was in progress, 3,499 pictures were made in Williamston, 672 in Oak City, 149 in Hamilton, 470 in Jamesville, 232 in Bear

## Roanoke River At Flood Stage Now

Fed by heavy rains, sleet and snow during the past week, the Roanoke was at flood stage here last night with the prospect that it will overflow its banks by twelve inches before the week is spent. Water stood at 10.2 on the gauge this morning.

Buggs Island is now releasing water and the action there is expected to hold the river in flood here for a week or more.

While the Roanoke is going out of bounds, swamps and creeks in this immediate area are also filled to overflowing, reports declare that there is more water in the land and in the streams than at any other time in several years.

Logging operations are virtually at a standstill all along the Roanoke and even in other areas as a result of the heavy rains and swollen streams.

Up until today, 5.67 inches of rain had fallen since January 3, including 2.53 inches recorded during last week.

The precipitation included about one inch of snow that fell after midnight last Friday. The snowfall was light here compared with the fall which measured up to about four inches in the county beyond Oak City.

## Slight Damage To County Roads

Other than a few washed shoulders and wash-outs around the Ballard Ridge in Poplar Point, little damage has been caused to the roads in this county by the recent sleet and snow and heavy rains, according to preliminary reports reaching here.

Ballard bridge was closed to traffic over the week-end when the dirt fill was partly washed away. The Williamston-Poplar Point road beyond Whitley's bridge was under a few inches of water early Monday, but traffic continued to move over the road.

Although the fairly heavy rains that fell continually during the latter part of the week damaged the shoulders in some areas, the black top routes came through the bad weather in fine shape, highway engineers said.

## Local Men Form TV Partnership

Messrs. Lewis Phippen and Elbert Bailey local men, have formed a partnership and will open the Maryin Television Sales and Service in West End within a short time, it was announced today. The firm will be located in what was known as the "Pink House", next to the home of Mrs. Exum Ward, Sr.

Both men are experienced in the business, Mr. Phippen having been connected with a local electrical firm for a number of years before resigning to enter business for himself. Mr. Bailey, a native of this county, recently returned following a long absence. After government service, he was employed by a television firm in Norfolk, resigning as head of the company's service department to enter business here for himself. Mr. Bailey moved his family to Williamston a short time ago and they are now at home on East Church Street.

## Local Parents And Teachers Anxious For New Buildings

### Hear Address On Child Welfare And Inspect New Piano Last Night

Meeting in the high school auditorium last evening, the Williamston Parents-Teachers Association heard an address on child welfare, inspected a new Clark & Story school model piano being considered for purchase for the public school music department, and discussed the needs for new buildings and enlargement of existing ones to improve conditions at the schools here. A rainy day problem also got attention.

Brought up by members from the floor, the urgent need for a shop building with class room, of a new gymnasium and additional classrooms was noted and the members avidly discussed the various ways in which this urgent need could be brought to the attention of county authorities in order to get the necessary relief. It was agreed that a committee would write a letter to the county board outlining the local problems in view of the fact the county board was reported to have decided against hearing delegations from the various school districts.

One patron declared Williams-ton's school patrons and committeemen have abided by the wishes of the school board and met each request of the board not to send delegations, not to press demands at great length and in every way treated the board with every possible courtesy but some members were wondering if the polite attitude was paying off since clamor had proved profitable to other petitioners in school matters. The school patrons emphasized that flooded floors in the gym and inadequate shop facilities are beginning to get a bit more than aggravating and embarrassing to local teachers, patrons and friends who are continually being asked why Williamston doesn't do something about improving these facilities.

The local school committeemen are scheduled to go before the County Board of Education Monday, February 1.

Centering her address around "Concern for Children" Mrs. Holley Mack Bell of Windsor, the former Miss Clara Bond, outlined the progress of child welfare and protection programs from Biblical times until the present. She urged the parents and teachers to keep the need for improved social legislation before legislators until better social laws could be enacted to protect children and improve their chances of becoming successful and useful citizens.

She was introduced by Miss Mary W. Taylor, Martin County Superintendent of Public Welfare, with whom Mrs. Bell formerly worked.

President Asa Crawford announced (Continued on Page Eight)

## Rurians Holding National Meeting

Martin County is being well represented at the National Ruritan Convention in Washington this week, according to incomplete reports coming from the several clubs in this county.

The convention, opening Monday morning, reported twelve hundred Ruritans in attendance from twelve southeastern states and Ohio. The last of the two-day sessions will be held this evening.

Messrs. Hurtford Smith and James Hope Ayers are representing the Oak City Club, and Messrs. Hugh B. Griffin, Frank Lilley, Robert Griffin and the Rev. W. B. Harrington are representing the Farm Life Club, at the convention.

## Robber Enters Local Laundry

Breaking through a window, a robber carried away a 38-caliber S and W revolver, a few cigarettes and some clothes from the Home Laundry here on Warren Street sometime during Sunday night. At the same time a lady's gold wrist watch was missing from the home of Lou Moore.

Officers said yesterday they had established a lead in the case but no arrest had been made early today. Some of the stolen articles were said to have been recovered.

### AGREEMENT

The way has been paved for paving Railroad Street from Smithwick to Kashington Street, according to a report gained from Town Attorney Chas. H. Manning yesterday. The Coast Line is yielding the right-of-way to a point nine feet from the center of the track, it was explained. After repeated conferences with railroad officials and attorneys, over a period of several years, an agreement was finally reached.