

## Neighbors To Rescue In Time Of Need

### Jos. Lilleys Are In Modern Home After Costly Fire

#### Farm Life Ruritan Club Sponsored Movement To Rehabilitate Family

The Joseph Lilleys—Mr. and Mrs. Lilley and their four children, Hume, 5; Sheryl Lynn, 4; Joan Ellen, 3, and Theresa Ann, 5 months, lost just about all their life savings on the morning of last January 17 when fire destroyed their home and nearly all the contents in Griffins Township. A few items were saved, including an electric stove and a few old pieces of furniture. The family was at Sunday School and the fire got a big start before it was discovered.

Working late into the night over a long period of time, the father had almost completed an extensive modernization work on the old family home, and he was to double the insurance the Wednesday following the fire.

While members of the family and neighbors and other friends from over the township watched the fire destroy the large home, about seven miles from here, and threaten other buildings, members of the Farm Life Ruritan Club sized up the situation and soon planned a positive program of action.

Hardly before the ashes had cooled, friends reported for work, raking away the debris and making ready for a new structure. Other friends turned to their timbers, and before the week was spent more than enough logs to build two houses were on the mill yard, the mill owner eliminating charges. Cash contributions were made after a liberal and willing fashion, the total running between two and three thousand dollars.

There were cold days, rainy days, but the work of rebuilding went forward, neighbors and other friends all but neglecting their own work to lend a helping hand.

Just recently the family, housed in the old Griffin home not too far away, moved back home and

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### Wilmer Sitterson Dies At His Home In Winston-Salem

#### Funeral Held At Graveside In Woodlawn Cemetery Here Saturday

Wilmer Matland Sitterson, native of Williamston, died suddenly at his apartment, 662 N. Spring Street in Winston-Salem last Thursday afternoon, the apparent victim of either a heart attack or a stroke of paralysis. He got up that morning and was about his work when he was taken ill and returned to his home.

A son of the late Joseph Murden Sitterson and Emily A. Smithwick Sitterson, he was born in Williamston on the corner of Main and North Biggs Street 74 years ago on March 1, 1880. After completing the local schools he attended the old Trinity school at Chocowinity and was employed by a local mercantile firm for a few years before he went to Kinston to work in a bank. He later cashed for a bank in Colerain, returning to Williamston about a quarter century ago. In the early thirties he located in Winston-Salem where he was a salesman. In addition to his work in the mercantile field here, he engaged in the brokerage business for a while, and operated a farm on the McCaskey Road for a few years.

He never married and was the last member of his immediate family, leaving two nephews, Jos. C. Sitterson of Chapel Hill and Simon C. Sitterson of Kinston; a niece, Mrs. Louvenia Anderson, of New York, and a great-nephew, Harry Stubbs, of Windsor. He was a member of the Church of the Advent here, and the rector, the Rev. Thomas Hastings, conducted the last rites at the graveside in Woodlawn Cemetery here last Saturday morning at 11:00 o'clock.

### Family, Burned Out, Moving To New Home



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lilley, pictured with their four children, Hume Bennett, 5; Sheryl Lynn, 4; Joene Ellen, 3, and Theresa Ann, 5 months, soon after their home was destroyed by fire in Griffins Township last January 17.



The Lilley family stand in front of their new home which was sponsored by the Farm Life Ruritan Club with the help of non-members throughout the community.



When Mr. Lilley got behind with his farm schedule while finishing the interior of the new home, neighbors and other friends scheduled a big field day recently, disking and plowing about all his farm in a matter of hours.

#### IDEAL EASTER

Ideal weather prevailed and Easter was observed in a big way here and throughout the county. As usual, Easter fevers were on parade and traffic neared the saturation point on the county highways, but the observance feature was the attendance upon the various religious services.

Record crowds were present for sunrise services in several cemeteries in the county, and churches were crowded for the programs later in the day.

#### Fire Call Here Early Last Sunday Morning

Firemen were called out here at 8:45 o'clock last Sunday morning when an oil heater went out of control and threatened the offices of Attorney Hugh G. Horton in the old Dennis Simmons Lumber Company building on West Main Street.

Other than that caused by smoke, no great damage resulted.

### Weapons Taken By The Sheriff

Sheriff M. W. Holloman and his deputies, working until the late hours of Sunday morning, possibly headed off at least one shooting and possibly another when they confiscated rifles and guns in the Oak City and Jamesville areas. No warrants were signed and no arrests were made, but the trouble was cleared away when the weapons were taken and stored by the officers.

Said to have been chased away from home because he was drinking, a husband was afraid to return until officers went there and got a rifle, the same weapon that his daughter had used in killing a man near Oak City some months ago.

A rifle and a gun were confiscated in Jamesville during the week-end, and peace was restored, the officers adding that three other weapons had been collected in that section during the past two weeks.

#### NEARING GOAL

The annual Red Cross fund drive is nearing its goal in this chapter, according to a semi-final report released yesterday by Fund Chairman Hugh M. Martin. One or two late reports are due, but as of yesterday the fund was a little less than \$50 from the quota, Chairman Martin explained.

#### Returns To Hospital For Further Treatment

Mrs. B. C. Swain, the former Miss Margaret Everett of Williamston, returned to Norfolk General Hospital Sunday afternoon for further treatment of a hip fracture suffered in a fall at her home in the Virginia city about three weeks ago.

Just out of the hospital last Thursday, she was moving from a wheel chair to her bed when the pin in the bone slipped out and she was forced to go back to the hospital.

### Special Term Of Superior Court In Second Week

#### Court About To Set Aside Verdict In Thompson Damage Suit

Opening a special term on Monday of last week for the trial of civil cases only, the Martin County Superior Court resumed its work this morning following a long Easter week-end holiday. Only a few minor cases are on the calendar for trial today, and the court is expected to complete its work and adjourn before the week is spent.

The trial of the C. Frank Modlin will cases, after lasting a day and a half, was brought to a quick close after the jury got it last Thursday noon. Sixteen minutes later, the jury had completed its deliberations and returned a verdict favoring the propounders' declaring that the paperwriting dated April 18, 1951, and over Mr. Modlin's signature was valid. The court ordered that the costs of the case be taxed against the estate, including \$800 counsel fees—\$500 for the propounders' attorney and \$300 for the attorney for the caveators, plus \$15 for an expert witness in the case for the propounders.

The court spent the remainder of last Thursday afternoon hearing the case of William Thompson against James Clifton Wiggins, the plaintiff having asked \$5,000 damages as a result of an automobile accident on Highway 125 near Williamston last January 8. The plaintiff showed that he was badly injured, that he suffered lacerations of the knees, a fracture of the maxilla (jaw bone), cuts and bruises on the left arm and that he lost five teeth when the defendant's car crashed into the one he was riding in.

The jury awarded a judgment in the sum of \$300. It was reported that the court recognized the verdict as being contrary to the weight of the evidence, and that the verdict would be set aside. It was also said that the insurance company had voluntarily agreed on a settlement far in excess of the judgment. No final entry had been entered in the case.

A possibility that an agreement will be reached without the aid

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### S. Jane Carraway Died Suddenly At Her Home Sunday

#### Last Rites Conducted In Biggs Funeral Home Monday Afternoon

Miss Sarah Jane Carraway, well-known local citizen and a charter member of the Bethany Pentecostal Holiness Church near Williamston, died suddenly at her residence in the Staton home, corner of Main and Haughton streets, Sunday morning about 8:00 o'clock. She had been in declining health for several years, but was thought to be getting along as well as usual. When she did not report for breakfast, a visit was made to her room about 9:00 o'clock and she was found dead, apparently the victim of an attack suffered while she was sleeping.

Miss Jane, as she was called by everyone who knew her, was born in Cross Roads Township 79 years ago on July 4, 1874, the daughter of the late Joseph G. and Polly Wynne Carraway. After spending her early life there she moved to Beaufort County about 1890 when she returned to Martin. She had been a member of the James G. Staton household for fifty-six years, locating in Williamston about 1908.

She was devoted to her friends and remained a faithful member of her church down through the years.

Surviving are a half-brother, James Carraway, of Robersonville, and several nieces and nephews.

The last rites were conducted in the Biggs Funeral Home here yesterday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock by her pastor, the Rev. G. A. Casper, assisted by the Rev. C. J. Seuir of Vanceboro. Interment was in the Biggs-Staton Cemetery near Williamston, just off U. S. Highway 17.

### Eight County Contests Before Voters In The May 29 Primary

#### Might Consider Underpass In Road Letting Next Week

Delayed last month when a discrepancy was reportedly found in the plants, the letting of a contract for the widening of the railroad underpass on West Main Street here might be included in the list of projects to be considered by the State Highway and Public Works Commission next week, according to unofficial information received over the week-end. The proposed project was not included in the last recently announced, but the report stated it possibly could be squeezed into the contract picture at the last minute.

It is beginning to appear that where there is a railroad even in sight, a bottleneck develops. A short time ago the town encountered much expense and consid-

erable delay in getting approval to pave Railroad Street which was leased years ago to the Coast Line for \$12.50. The West Main underpass has received cold treatment year after year. Now, it is possible that there'll be a bottleneck in the truck route project at the intersection of the by-pass and railroad near the fertilizer plant.

Rough grading on the project has been completed except for the road crossing near the plant. Possibly it can be handled without actually delaying the project, but to date nothing has been done to get the highway over the rails at that point. The dirt is piled nearby for the work. After the route stands a while the contractor will start work on the base and asphalt surface.

#### FIRST TOBACCO

The first of the 1954 tobacco transplantings was reported on the C. Abram Roberson farm near Robersonville last Saturday. Several acres were planted to the crop, it was said.

Most farmers, their corn planted, are turning their attention to tobacco, preparing their lands and making ready for transplanting on a fairly large scale about next week.

So far no extensive blue mold attacks have been reported in the county.

### Former County Doctor Died In Virginia Friday

#### Funeral Held Sunday In Falkland For Doctor

Dr. Earl Eugene Pittman, a practicing physician in Oak City for almost thirty years, died at his home in Virginia Beach last Friday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock, the apparent victim of a heart attack. He had been in declining health for several years, retiring from active practice about three years ago and leaving the county to make his home at Virginia Beach.

He was born in Falkland, Pitt County, 61 years ago, the son of the late Jesse Baker and Molly Davis Pittman. Completing his schooling in his native county, he entered college and was graduated from the Medical College of Virginia, locating in this county soon thereafter.

Dr. Pittman played the role of the country doctor and counselor, serving all those in need regardless of their station in life. For more than a quarter century, he answered the call of the sick in the upper part of this county, extending his services into adjoining Halifax County and realizing in many cases that his only reward would be the satisfaction of knowing that he had served humanity.

He was a member of the Presbyterian church, often attending services in Williamston during his residence in Oak City.

The last rites were conducted

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### Thongs Attend Fish Festival

Jamesville's annual fish festival attracted large numbers from all parts of eastern Carolina Monday. While there was no scheduled events program, the Easter Monday crowd made a big holiday of it, many doing their own fishing and cooking along the shores.

Special cafe arrangements were effected to handle the throng, and liberal helpings were reported at the establishments. Cooking stations were set up at Gardner's Creek bridge as well as at Jamesville and all along the banks by individuals.

The event at Jamesville was climaxed by a big dance last night.

### District Senator And Solicitor To Appear On Ballot

#### Race Assured For Half Dozen Offices In The May 29 Primary

Twenty-two candidates got their names into the all-county political pot, three others filed for the State senate from this district and eight signed up for local or township constables before the filing deadline last Saturday evening at 6:00 o'clock, according to Elections Board Chairman C. D. Carstarphen. Also appearing on the county ballot will be the names of Ebert S. Peel of Williamston and Hubert E. May of Nashville, candidates for solicitor in the second judicial district.

Eight of the candidates were automatically declared the Democratic nominees when no opposition developed, and their names will not appear on the May 29 primary ballot. Nineteen names will appear on the county ballot.

Late developments on the political front added two new contests in the county, boosting the number of races to be settled on a county-wide basis to six, plus the two district contests.

Only one second district senatorial, Lemuel H. Ross of Washington, candidate has been certified, but two others, Martin Kellogg of Manteo and Edward L. Owens of Plymouth, are said to have filed, meaning that the senatorial contest will be on the county ballot.

There'll be three local or township ballots, one each for Jamesville, Williamston and Hamilton. And then there will be the State ballot.

The five strictly county contests follow:

A Corey, incumbent from Jamesville, and Frank Everett of Hamilton are in the race for county representative in the State legislature.

In the sheriff's race are M. W. (Buck) Holloman, incumbent, and W. Raymond Rawls, both of Williamston.

Ranking with the major county contests is the one for judge of the Martin County Recorder's Court. Herbert O. Peele, incumbent, of Williamston, and Henry S. Everett of Robersonville are candidates for the office.

A contest developed right at

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### Critically Burned Near Here Monday

Little Miss Patsy Roberson, 7-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Roberson of Newport News, was critically burned while visiting in the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Holliday, near Williamston about 1:00 o'clock Monday afternoon. Suffering third-degree burns over a large part of her body, she was removed by a Biggs ambulance to Duke Hospital, Durham, following first aid treatment in Brown's Hospital. She was accompanied to Durham by her uncle, Sammy Holliday, and Mrs. Roberson and others, including Miss Evelyn Holliday, Tom Holliday and Mrs. Dick Gurganus followed in a car.

Accompanied by her mother, sister, Betty, and a brother, Shelton, she came down to spend Easter with her grandparents on the Rogers farm about three miles out on the Prison Camp road. Just before making ready to return home, she spilled water on her dress and went to the kitchen and turned on the gas stove to dry the dress. While holding the dress over the burner it caught fire and she ran into the back porch and into the yard. She gave no alarm, but other children there saw her and called for help. Mr. Holliday rushed out of the house and burned his hands severely trying to smother the fire, but most of the clothing had burned away. He was only able to keep the fire from burning all her hair.

The father was called from Newport News and he continued to Durham.

### Former County Resident Dies

Mrs. Minnie McNaughton Taylor, a resident of this county for a number of years, died suddenly of a heart attack at her home in Oklahoma City last Wednesday night shortly after 11:00 o'clock.

The daughter of the late George P. and Margaret Moore McNaughton, she was born in Renova, Pennsylvania, about 74 years ago and moved when a child to Everett's where her father operated a big lumber mill. Following her marriage to Mr. Walter C. Taylor, she made her home in Augusta, Ga., and Greenwood, South Carolina before locating in Oklahoma about thirty years ago.

Surviving are five children, Mrs. Ryan Glover, Mrs. Cy Sorenson and Miss Faye Taylor, all of Oklahoma City; two sons, Walter C. (Dub) Taylor of Hollywood, Calif., and George Taylor of Texas, and a sister, Mrs. John L. Rodgeron, of Williamston.

The funeral was held in Oklahoma Saturday and interment was in the cemetery there.