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VOLUME XXXIV—NUMBER 77

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, November 24, 1931

ESTABLISHED 1898

83 DEATHS FROM AUTO ACCIDENTS IN PAST MONTH

Nearly Six Hundred Persons Are Killed In the First Ten Months

Raleigh, Nov. 20.—Speed, recklessness, and carelessness killed 83 persons and injured 496 more during October, according to the figures on automobile accidents released today by L. S. Harris, chief of the theft and license bureau of the Department of Revenue. So far, for the first ten months of 1931, a total of 599 persons have been killed and 4,116 injured in automobile accidents, or twice as many as were killed in battle in the entire Spanish-American war, in which 282 American soldiers were killed in action. In September, 77 were killed and 519 injured. In October, 1930, only 70 were killed and 417 injured in automobile accidents.

Since July 1, 1927, a total of 3,089 have been killed and 20,726 injured in automobile accidents in North Carolina. The law requiring the automobile license division to keep statistics on automobile accidents went into effect July 1, 1927, and accurate statistics go back only to that date.

"These statistics merely serve to point out the need for greater care in driving automobiles and the need for more conservative speeds," said Commissioner A. J. Maxwell, of the Department of Revenue. "For the records show that excessive speed, carelessness, and a disregard for the laws of the road are responsible for most of these accidents. Drivers of automobiles are in too big a hurry these days. They should remember speed is always dangerous and that it is better to get where they are going late than to not get there at all or to get there in a hurry."

"If 83 persons should die from some disease epidemic and 496 be ill from it within a single month, the entire state would be quarantined, and the U. S. Public Health Service and the Red-Cross appealed to," was the comment made by Dr. J. M. Parrott, head of the State Board of Health. "But speeditis and gasolinitis, accompanied by a touch of hoochitis, can kill nearly 100 persons a month, and maim nearly 500 more, and no one pays any attention to it. Already this year 599 have been killed and 4,116 injured—more than were killed in the Spanish-American war—and no one seems much aroused."

"If mad dogs had bitten 579 persons in October, of which 83 had died, leaving the others injured, the people would be in a state of hysteria. But they are unconcerned at the thousands of heavy-footed motorists suffering from gasophobia and recklessness who are killing and maiming hundreds each month on the highways."

METHODISTS END ANNUAL SESSION

No Change Made In The Assignments to Charges In Martin County

Closing its 95th session in Greenville last Sunday night, the North Carolina Methodist conference made numerous changes in the assignments of ministers, but none affected the pastoral personnel in the county. Rev. C. T. Rogers returns here for his second year, and Rev. A. E. Brown will continue his work at Robersonville and Hamilton.

As a result of the elimination of one or two districts, Robersonville is now included in the Rocky Mount district, with Rev. L. B. Jones presiding. Williamston continues in the Elizabeth City district, with Rev. O. W. Dowd as presiding elder.

Rev. B. D. Critcher, a Williamston native, goes to Red Springs in the Fayetteville district. The session, closing the conference Sunday, was well attended by Methodist followers from all over eastern North Carolina, reports stating that there were more than 2,500 in attendance upon the sermon delivered by Bishop Mouzon in the East Carolina Teachers' College auditorium Sunday morning.

The 96th session of the conference will be held in Rocky Mount next year.

Local Masons To Hold Regular Meet Tonight

There will be a regular meeting of the local masonic lodge, Skewarkee, No. 90, tonight (Tuesday) at 7:30 p. m., it was announced yesterday. In addition to the regular business, there will be work in the third degree. All members are urged to attend, and members of the degree team are particularly asked to be on time.

A Proclamation

To the People of Williamston:

Whereas, our early forefathers of this nation in the midst of privations and hardships were exceedingly grateful for a bountiful harvest, and out of the gratitude of their hearts set apart a day for thanksgiving in order that they might more appropriately offer up their devotions to a kind providence for their many blessings; and

Whereas, that manner of offering thanks has become a national custom approved and requested by our President and Governor: Now, therefore,

I, Robert L. Coburn, Mayor of Williamston, happy to follow this custom, do hereby proclaim and set aside Thursday, November 26th, as Thanksgiving Day, and call upon the people of the town to honor and observe it by suspending all unnecessary activities and by giving expression to the gratitude that is in their hearts for all the blessings enjoyed during the past year.

While a survey of our town reveals the fact that our business, educational and religious institutions have gone forward and made great progress in the midst of a general economic depression and that our general business conditions are much better than thousands of other communities about us, it is nevertheless true that there are some of our townspeople who are in want and need. I therefore earnestly urge the people of the town to contribute liberally to the funds for charity; that our people make real sacrifices for the relief of suffering humanity everywhere. Let us ever remember that our greatest contribution to life is the bringing of cheer, happiness and good will to those who suffer. Then when we have made sure that all of our people will be able to enjoy the blessings of food and raiment, let us on this Thanksgiving Day take time to offer up our devotions to Deity for our many blessings, and petition divine relief for suffering humanity of all nations.

ROBERT L. COBURN,
Mayor of Williamston.

Copy of First Thanksgiving Proclamation; Was Issued by Washington While President

ON NOVEMBER 26 1789, DATE FIRST OFFICIALLY SET

Proclamation Issued Over Protest of Several Representatives

The custom of the President of the United States issuing annually a Thanksgiving proclamation can be traced back to the time when George Washington was at the helm of the nation's affairs. On November 26, (the same day on which Thanksgiving falls this year) 1789, President Washington proclaimed for the first time a national day of thanksgiving, thereby setting a precedent for all future Presidents.

Celebration of Thanksgiving Day in America, we are informed by the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission, can be traced back to the earliest days of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. From there the custom spread to all parts of the United States.

Washington's first national Thanksgiving Proclamation met with some objections. When Elias Boudinot, on September 25, 1789, introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives, "That a joint committee of both Houses be directed to wait upon the President of the United States, to request that he would recommend to the people of the United States a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging and grateful hearts, the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity to establish a Constitution of government for their safety and happiness," it met with protest from some of the members.

Representative Thos. Tudor Tucker of South Carolina, argued that it was not the business of Congress to ask for a national day of Thanksgiving.

Representative Aedanus Burke, of the same state, thought we should not mimic Europe "where they made a mere mockery of thanksgiving."

The objections were soon overruled and a joint committee, made up of

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FORMER MARTIN MAN NOT GUILTY BERTIE HOLD UP

J. D. Ward Is Freed In the Case Charging Him With Robbery

Windsor, Nov. 20.—J. D. Ward, former Martin County man, and Mack Campbell were found not guilty of the hold-up and robbery of two Bertie County filling stations by the jury which deliberated over their verdict for nine hours Thursday morning before they reached an agreement.

The case was given to the jury Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock after consuming a day and half for the presentation of evidence and argument of counsel. Remaining in their rooms until 10 o'clock Wednesday night, the jury was unable to reach a verdict. After sleeping over the case Wednesday night, the 12 jurymen were still unable to agree until the verdict of not guilty was finally reached at 11:30 o'clock Thursday morning.

Ward and Campbell were charged with having held-up at the point of a pistol and robbed Alpheus Dempsey of over \$400 in his filling station near Windsor several weeks ago. On the same night and shortly after the hold-up of Dempsey, they were charged with robbing Will Harrell at his filling station on the other side of town, taking \$27 from him. Ward and Campbell were sought by officers for several days after the robberies, but returned to Windsor and voluntarily submitted to arrest.

Dempsey and Harrell both positively identified Ward and Campbell as the men perpetrating the robbery, but the acquitted men set up an alibi showing their presence in Norfolk on the night of the robbery. A hotel register showing them registered in the Union Mission Hotel and the testimony of an acquaintance of their presence in Norfolk at the time the robbery was committed sustained the alibi in the trial.

Reverberations of the famous "Blue Heaven," a house of prostitution which was operated near Windsor for several years until the proprietress was haled into court last spring and forced to leave the county, were heard in the trial. Ward, one of the accused men, was the husband of the notorious proprietress of the place. Campbell was a friend of Ward's and a habitue of the resort. Ward and Campbell were accompanied by Mabel Godley, woman of ill-fame, on the night prior to the robbery of the filling stations, when they testified they stopped at Harrell's filling station, one of those robbed, on their way to Norfolk.

It was brought out in evidence that Dempsey and Harrell were habitués of "Blue Heaven" and acquaintances of the Godley woman. The defense used this evidence to discredit the testimony of Dempsey and Harrell, and use jealousy as a possible motive for accusing the defendants of the crime.

12-YEAR OLD BOY PAINFULLY SHOT

Ear of Haywood Holliday Accidentally Shot Off Early Sunday

Haywood Holliday, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Pertie Holliday, of near Williamston, had a narrow escape from death last Sunday morning when his ear was partly torn off by a load of shot accidentally fired from a gun in the hands of his brother, Rowland Holliday, 15 years old. Several "shot struck" the boy in the face, nearly closing one of his eyes. The victim, deaf and dumb, was unable to describe the shooting, but his brother stated that they were going out to kill a chicken and that the gun fired as Haywood handed it to him, stock first. A variation in the range of the gun would have either resulted in the boy's death or caused the shot to miss him altogether.

Cotton Ginnings In This County 288 Bales Short

Up to and including November 14, Martin County farmers had ginned 2,504 bales of cotton, or 288 fewer units, than were ginned during the same period last year.

The report, the latest made public by the United States Department of Commerce, M. W. Stewart, director, indicates that the production this year will not be so very much smaller than it was last season. Previous reports showed a difference of as many as 500 bales in the 1930 and 1931 production, but this difference is becoming less, according to the reports filed.

Union Thanksgiving Service In Baptist Church Thursday

Following a custom of many years standing, the cooperating churches in Williamston will hold their annual Thanksgiving service in the Baptist church Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, with the Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, Presbyterian pastor, preaching the sermon.

This follows a yearly rotation which is worked out from time to time by the local ministerial association. Heretofore, some of these services have been held the evening preceding the Thanksgiving Day. However, it was decided this year that it would be more in keeping with the season to

hold the service on the day on which Thanksgiving comes. It is always the custom that at these services the offering go to the various orphan homes supported by the several contributing churches. It will be well for the worshipers to mark their envelopes and sign their names to avoid confusion, as the loose change offering is divided equally among the participating churches.

The general public is invited to this Thanksgiving service, and it ought to be a representative service for the several congregations in the town.

Plymouth Man, Native Russia, Tells of Many Changes Noted During Visit to That Country

5c FOR PEANUTS

During the next several weeks, The Enterprise will allow 5 cents or more a pound for farmers' peanuts, applicable on subscriptions to the paper. No broken bags are solicited, the publishing company offering a three-year subscription to the paper for each whole bag delivered to its office on Main Street. The offer is not limited to new subscriptions but also applies to renewals.

The Enterprise earnestly solicits the patronage of its subscribers during this special arrangement, believing it will be advantageous to all concerned.

WILL NOT CALL SPECIAL SESSION

State Will Have No Part In Acreage Reduction Legislation

Raleigh, Nov. 21.—North Carolina, so long as it is guided by Governor O. Max Gardner, will have no part in movements designed to curtail crop plantings by legislation, according to a statement in which the Governor announced this state would not be represented at a conference of Southern Governors at Jackson, Miss., looking toward cotton reduction.

The Governor said his invitation to "the conference is being called to make plans for uniform legislation to reduce cotton acreage in 1932" and "insofar as North Carolina is concerned, legislation does not offer the most promising remedy or relief."

He also said he was "unwilling to ditch this state's 'live at home' program and substitute experimentation in legislation for acreage reduction."

CHARITY SHOW HERE TONIGHT

Proceeds Will Be Used In Helping Community's Unfortunates

Those who would offer a helping hand to their less fortunate brothers are asked to remember the benefit picture at the Watts Theatre here Tuesday night, November 24, when the management turns over to local charity workers one-half the gross proceeds for use in this community.

It was first announced that the Woman's Club welfare committee would sell tickets for the show tonight, and while that procedure was considered, the benefit picture tonight is one of the many that are being sponsored throughout the country by the theatre managers themselves. Mr. Watts is voluntarily donating one-half of his theatre receipts tonight to assist the charity workers in this section.

Young Man Nearly Loses Two Fingers In Pea Picker

Sammie Clark, young white boy of the Jamesville section, had two of his fingers partly chewed off last Friday when his hand was caught between two peanut picker cog wheels. Young-Clark was wearing an oversized glove and it was caught between the wheels, pulling his hand into the cogs. His fingers stalled the mechanism of the picker, tearing out the spokes of the main wheel and throwing the driving belt from the pulleys.

COLORED MAN IS SERIOUSLY HURT ON HIGHWAY 30

Believed Walter Hassell, jr. Was Robbed and Left To Die On Highway

Walter Hassell, jr., 21-year-old colored man of near here, was seriously hurt late last Saturday night when he was either run down by an automobile or assaulted on Highway No. 30, a mile and one-half south of Williamston. He was found lying unconscious on the concrete about 1 o'clock Sunday morning by Roy Ward and a young man named Griffin.

Brought here in a truck owned and driven by Clyde Hardison, the man was given first aid treatment and later removed to a Washington hospital where his recovery was reported very doubtful by attending doctors.

Officers, making a preliminary investigation of the case, were of the opinion at first that he had been struck by a hit-and-run driver. Following an examination made by doctors at the hospital, it was rumored that he had been assaulted as no other parts of the body were bruised or injured. Hassell had not regained full consciousness late Monday, and his story of the case could not be had.

Hassell was last seen here about midnight, and was walking toward his home when he was hurt. It was said he had around \$50 on his person when he left here, and when found he only had a small coin and a pocket knife on his person, advancing the belief that he was robbed, hurt and then left to die along the highway.

The case is in the hands of officers, but no developments had been made public late Monday.

PATROLMEN OF GROUP A MEET HERE MONDAY

Rigid Enforcement of The Motor Vehicle Laws Is Stressed at Meeting

The stricter enforcement of motor vehicle laws on the highways of North Carolina was stressed by Lieutenant Lester B. Jones before a meeting of Group A patrolmen held in the courthouse here yesterday. While no direct order was given as to speeding on the highways, it was gathered from the meeting that speeders will be held strictly accountable for the dangerous practice.

The dozen or more highway officers were instructed to enforce the law requiring all vehicles to stop while school trucks are being loaded or unloaded on the highways. The law requiring trucks without trailers to operate at or under 35 miles an hour and trucks with trailers to operate at or under 30 miles an hour, was called to the attention of the men for enforcement.

The 1932 license sale was discussed, the lieutenant informing his men that the plates would be sold this year at the rate of 55 cents for every 100 pounds a car weighs. The rate for trucks has not been given out.

Following the business meeting, the patrolmen dined at the Sunny Side Inn.

SUPERIOR COURT BEGAN MONDAY

Court Making Little Progress; Will Have Holiday Thanksgiving Day

The November term of the Martin County Superior Court, created for the trial of civil cases only, was convened Monday morning by Judge M. V. Barnhill, of Rocky Mount, presiding. Very few spectators, and no great number of litigants were present for the opening session.

After a brief review of the calendar, Judge Barnhill called the first case, Ayers against Cratt, at 11:15, after continuing 15 or 20 of the 72 cases appearing on the docket. A goodly number of other cases were cleared from the docket, the defense and plaintiff attorneys pointing out that several of the issues had been settled out of court.

Proceedings in the tribunal were progressing slowly yesterday, indicating that many of the cases on the docket for the two weeks term would remain untouched during the period. Thanksgiving will be observed as a holiday by the court.

Announce Birth
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McKenzie announce the birth of a daughter, Martha, here Sunday, November 22, 1931.

(Continued on the back page)

Miss Lizzie Mizelle Died Saturday Near Jamesville

Miss Lizzie Mizelle died at her home, near Jamesville, last Saturday of pneumonia, following an illness of only a few days' duration.

Miss Mizelle was 61 years old, the daughter of the late Mark W. and wife, Nancy Mizelle. She is survived by one brother, Dempsey R. Mizelle.

The funeral was held at the home Sunday afternoon by Rev. W. B. Harrington, Baptist minister. Burial was in the family grave yard on the home farm.

Gets Good Average for Tobacco Here Yesterday

Selling another load of his tobacco here yesterday, Mr. George R. Boyd, of Pinetown, stated that he got another good price average for his offerings. During the past several years, Mr. Boyd said he had sold practically all his tobacco on the local market, his sales made in some other places proving to him that he got his best averages here.

Mr. Boyd was accompanied by his wife on the trip here yesterday.