

SMALL INCREASE IN ARRESTS MADE DURING YEAR 1936

Review Shows Crime Trend Continues Upward Over Period of Years

County officers had quite a busy time last year and the year before arresting and handling alleged violators of the laws in this county, a review of the records showing 565 arrests made in 1936 and 495 in 1935, the sheriff's office making, on an average, 1.5 arrests each day last year, compared with 1.4 arrests daily during the year 1935. The small increase in 1936 over 1935 in the number of arrests remains about constant over a period of years, the crime trend being continually upward. There was a slight let-up during the depth of the depression, but outside that period crime has gradually increased, the later day in fractions of the law apparently falling into a more serious group than was the case 5, 10 or 15 years ago.

During the past few years there has been a marked increase in arrests among the white population, and the records show that the number of violations charged against the white is not trailing those charged against the colored population to any great extent. At the present rate, violations by the white population will outnumber the crimes by members of the colored race within a period of a very few years.

Other than to indicate the increased trend, and that for a period of years, the record of arrests as taken from the jail books in the office of Sheriff C. B. Roebuck mean but little. The increased number of arrests in 1936 over 1935 has a closer relation to financial conditions probably than to any other one factor. Just why there should be 10 more arrests for murder last year than there were in 1935, a comparison of the times, conditions and other factors will fail to disclose. A stricter enforcement of the laws, all laws, will probably account for the greater number of arrests of drunks, drunken drivers, and others.

The jail records for the past two years prove probably only one thing, and that is the sheriff's office has one big job tracking down and arresting alleged law violators and handling many of the details connected with the cases. And in addition to this work, there are taxes to be collected, courts to be served, civil papers to be served and numerous other duties to be handled.

The records offer some interesting facts as to the age groups facing charges of alleged law violations. Arrests, the records show, started with youngsters just 9 years old and continued all the way to an old colored man, 76 years old, who was charged with murder. In the group from 9 years to and including those 16 years old there were 41 charges of law violations in 1935 and 33 in 1936. Crime centered in the group ranging from 17 to 25 years of age, that classification accounting for nearly one-third of the arrests; or 147 in 1935 and 165 in 1936. In the next group, 25 to 32 years of age, there were 128 arrests in 1935 and 169 last year. The group from 33 to 40 years was charged with 104 arrests in 1935 and 102 last year. There were comparatively few arrests in the group with ages from 41 to 50 years, but this group, as

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Farmers Report Meat Loss Caused by Warm Weather

Continued warm weather in this section is causing considerable alarm among many farmers who killed their annual meat supplies during the past few days. Reports were received today stating that several farmers had already lost their meat, and that large numbers of others were uneasy about theirs. More than 100 blocks of ice were bought from the local ice company yesterday and today and placed by those farmers in their smokehouses in an effort to save their meat.

While forecasters were predicting cooler weather tonight and tomorrow, the mercury was standing at 80 degrees early this afternoon.

Schedule of Services at Baptist Church Sunday

Bible school, 9:45 a. m.
Morning worship, 11 a. m. Sermon subject: "A Proposal for Our Church."
B. T. U., 6:30.
Evening worship, 7:30; sermon subject: "Comforted, Vexed, Smitten."
Notice that the evening service will be held.

Arrests—By Months, Races

The following tabulation shows the number of arrests made by county officers in this county during 1935 and 1936, by months, and the division among the white and colored population. The table shows arrests only, and does not indicate how many of those arrested were convicted in the courts.

	1935		1936	
	Col.	White Tot.	Col.	White Tot.
January	48	7 55	32	12 44
February	18	11 29	29	12 41
March	22	10 32	27	17 44
April	25	8 33	17	14 31
May	21	8 29	20	10 30
June	12	15 27	46	16 62
July	23	20 43	25	17 42
August	33	20 53	21	14 35
September	26	23 49	42	27 69
October	30	10 40	26	31 57
November	29	47 76	31	26 57
December	27	13 40	25	28 53
	314	181 495	341	224 565

Fire Loss Last Year Heaviest Since 1929

BANK HOLIDAY

The local banks will observe next Tuesday, January 19, Robert E. Lee's Birthday, as a holiday, it was announced by the management of the two institutions today. The day, while ranked as a holiday throughout the South, is observed as such only on a small scale in this section. Other than the banks, all business houses here will be open as usual on that day.

Barnes Resigns as Assistant Agent; To Go With AAA

L. T. Weeks Begins Work Monday as Assistant To Agent Brandon

Murphy L. Barnes, popular assistant county farm agent here for the past year and a half, resigned that post this week to accept a position with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, the resignation to become effective probably some time next week, it was learned today. The new position is recognized as a valuable promotion for Mr. Barnes, who will head educational and compliance work in the eastern section of the State, according to information received here. Mr. Barnes will have his headquarters and continue to live here, it was stated.

Mr. L. T. Weeks, of Fuquay Springs, has been named to succeed Mr. Barnes as assistant to County Agent Tom Brandon. Mr. Weeks was here this week looking for living quarters and will report for active work next Monday. Mr. Weeks, who lost his parents last spring, will bring his younger brother with him and be at home with Mrs. W. E. Warren on Houghton Street, and he will move his wife and daughter here just as soon as he can locate living quarters.

Mr. Weeks was graduated with honors from State College in Raleigh in 1934, and was vocational agriculture teacher in the Hobgood schools for a year and a half, or until his father died and resigned his work there to return home and take charge of the home farm. He enters upon his new duties here highly recommended by State agricultural authorities.

Meet Held Thursday For WPA Teachers

Teachers in WPA adult schools in the eastern section held a district meeting in the courthouse here yesterday, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Morris and Mr. Winston Riley, prominent figures in adult educational work, offering the teachers a course of instruction in handling their classes. A large number of teachers in the night schools were present from 8 of the 12 counties in the district.

Mrs. Morris, formerly a teacher in Columbia University, is now head of adult education work in this state, and Mr. Riley, formerly head of adult education in the State of Indiana, is now head of the work in this district.

There are more than 1,000 adults taking advantage of the instruction offered by the night schools at the present time. A splendid work has been accomplished in Martin County, but the five schools are now reporting a small attendance, it is understood.

Total Damage Was \$18,774 Against Only \$2,258 in Prior Year

Number of Calls Received Three Under Record For Previous Year

Williamston had its heaviest fire loss in 1936 since the year 1929, a review of the local volunteer fire department records shows. A greater portion of the \$18,774 loss was centered in three fires—Culpepper Hardware Company store on the 10th of last February, the Charles Mobley home on April 20, and Suggs' grocery on the 16th of last November.

During the past year, the local firemen answered 33 calls, one outside of town. On an average, 10 of the company volunteers answered each call, the number of calls being the second largest on record.

The unusual feature in the report is the large personal property or building contents loss, compared with damage to buildings. Personal property losses were estimated at \$10,759, against \$7,915 on buildings.

One false alarm was received during the period, pranksters celebrating the Democratic election victory on November 4 dragging out the fire-fighting apparatus. The volunteers were greatly baffled and embarrassed on November 19th, when a call was received and they found the truck battery run down. A small building on Washington Street burned down while the company members and volunteers tugged at the balking machine. As a whole the fireman made a unique record during the year, however. About one-fourth of the calls were received during freezing weather, and the work was handled under many handicaps.

The following figures, taken from the fire department records, show the annual fire loss here since 1928:

Year	No. Calls	Loss
1929	24	\$38,350
1930	24	2,421
1931	29	5,910
1932	25	2,850
1933	25	2,350
1934	17	600
1935	36	2,258
1936	33	18,774
	213	\$74,213

Second Civil Suit Filed In County Court This Week

A suit for \$750 was filed in the office of Superior Court L. B. Wynne here this week by Ben Cross against Norfolk Southern Bus Corporation. The suit is the second filed in the county so far this year, it was said.

Cross, in his complaint, alleged that a bus operated by the defendant struck and wrecked his car near Everetts the 25th of last November. He is asking \$250 property and \$500 personal damages.

The second ejection paper of the year was also filed this week in the county, the sheriff's office serving a similar paper a few days ago.

Auto Tire and Accessory Store To Open Here Soon

Leased by a firm in Rocky Mount, the Staton store, next to Clark's Drug Store on Main Street here will be occupied about the first of next month by an automobile tire and accessory store, it was unofficially learned here this week. The firm plans to open for business about the middle of next month, it was learned. Definite announcements are expected shortly.

6 EATING PLACES HERE CLOSED BY STATE INSPECTOR

Operators Carried To Court For Alleged Violation Of Sanitary Laws

Six hot-dog stands were closed and ratings were given the two hotels and other cafes here this week following an inspection by W. Murray Linker, district sanitation supervisor of the State Board of Health. Operators of the six cafes or hot-dog stands closed by the inspector were carried to court, Justice J. L. Hassell suspending \$10 fines upon payment of costs in each case and under the condition that the places remain closed until all sanitary requirements are met. Operators of Roamer's, Manning's, Jones's, Gainer's, Ruffin's cafes and the Starlight Inn, after going to court, started making arrangements to comply with the requirements in nearly every case. Laws controlling sanitary standards for hotels and cafes are said to have commanded greater respect than at any previous time, the several business operators launching a program of changes immediately to boost their ratings before another inspection is made within the next 30 days.

The George Reynolds Hotel, with a rating of 93, led the list for hotels, and the Welcome Inn led the list for cafes. The other principal cafes here were not subject to closing orders, and a few minor changes will place them in the "A" class, it was learned.

Really deplorable conditions were found in the group ordered closed by the sanitarian, Mr. Linker stating unofficially that the only rating he could give one establishment was made possible by fresh air and sunshine going through the building. Another operator of a hot dog stand in the group, it was unofficially learned, tried to explain that he did not sell hot dogs, but did sell liquor, and that the sale of liquor, he thought, did not come under State Board of Health regulations.

One of the cafes in the closed group scored 17.5 points, which may or may not be a record for the state.

All cafes scoring under 70 points are subject to be closed under state health laws, Mr. Linker pointed out, adding that a marked improvement of sanitary conditions in eating places here could be expected from now on.

SERIES OF FARM MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN COUNTY

Will Be Similar To Educational Meetings Held Last Year

A series of farm educational meetings similar to those held last year will be held in several communities of this county next week, it was learned from the office of the county agent today. The county farm and home agents and heads of other agricultural agencies in the county will have parts on the program which will offer a review of the various departmental activities. The meetings will be held at 7 o'clock in the evenings.

Miss Lora E. Sleeper, home agent; W. G. Stancill, of Rocky Mount, who is with the National Farm Loan Association; E. G. Greene, of Weldon, who is president of the Production Credit Association; F. H. Stephenson, of the Martin County Farmers Cooperative Exchange; D. G. Modlin, Rural Resettlement Administration; and T. B. Brandon, county agent, will have parts on the program. Farmers are being urged directly to attend the meetings in their respective communities. The agencies are in a position to make loans, refinance farm indebtedness, buy and sell farm products cooperatively and advise about farm and home problems.

The schedule of meetings is as follows: Oak City, Monday, January 18; Hassell, Tuesday, January 19; Farm Life, Wednesday, January 20; Robertsonville, Thursday, January 21; and Bear Grass on Friday, January 22.

Local Boy Scouts To Hold Meet at 7 This Evening

A meeting of local Boy Scouts will be held in the Baptist parsonage this evening at 7 o'clock, Rev. J. H. Smith and Professor Milton Griffin, leaders of the movement, announced today. There are about 18 members of the organization, and all are urged to be present.

Number County Farmers To Attend Tobacco Short Course

Several Martin County farmers are planning to attend the short course for tobacco growers at State College, Raleigh, beginning next Monday, according to information coming from the office of the county agent here today. All tobacco growers are invited to attend, and hundreds are expected from the tobacco-growing sections. The total cost of about \$10.50, including board and room, is considered very reasonable.

Recognized specialists of the state and nation will have parts in the program, which is designed to

prove of much value to farmers. All phases of tobacco culture and marketing will be discussed by leaders who have devoted years of study to the problems, and these discussions will be supplemented by actual laboratory practice and demonstrations. Actual grading demonstrations will be arranged, and a thorough review of tobacco culture will be made.

Any farmer who wishes to attend from this county is directed to get in touch with the county agent, with the possibility that transportation facilities may be arranged for groups.

Legislature Gets Many New Bills This Week

Budget Estimates Show Increases in Almost All Lines

Decrease for County Road Maintenance Shown in Proposed Budget

The second week of the 1937 North Carolina General Assembly finds the legislators swamped with bills and perplexing problems and no definite or even general solutions are in sight just now. Apparently the legislature is already entangled to the extent that some believe it will be until next June or July freeing itself.

Numerous bills of local importance have been introduced and many passed, but none affecting this county has been introduced so far. Representative H. G. Horton explaining last week that he planned to sponsor a measure to allow Martin County to establish an all-time health service if the public wanted the department.

With bills having to do with social security, crop control, transportation of school children, child labor amendment, and a few others already in the hopper, other major proposals were added to the list this week. Laws have been proposed to change date for holding primaries, provide a state-wide referendum on liquor, prohibit the sale of fireworks, to make kidnapping punishable by death in this state, to put the state into the business of distilling and wholesaling liquor to wet-voting counties, to supply free textbooks to elementary school pupils, to re-establish NRA minimum hours, to lower automobile license costs again, to authorize a \$25,000,000 bond issue for the improvement of rural roads and to consolidate control of the public schools.

The budget estimates were re-released this week, each department calling for an increase during the 1937-38 period. While all department budgets call for increased funds, some of them requested less for certain items. During the current year, \$6,078,597 was spent for the maintenance of county roads, the budget recommending only \$5,800,000 for the new year, or a reduction of about \$278,000. The budget recommends \$372,225 for the general assembly and judiciary; \$1,995,775 for executive and legislative departments; \$2,415,687 for educational institutions; \$2,071,554 for charitable and correctional institutions; \$36,952,690 for State aid and obligations, this amount representing \$24,396,367 for schools, as compared with \$20,223,211 for 1935-36, and 28,152,309 for highway and public works, making a grand total of \$70,178,171, as compared with \$68,876,577 in 1935-36. There is no provision for social security, the budget commission leaving the task of raising funds to finance that service with the legislature, it was pointed out.

The proposal of Representative Ed R. Hanford, of Alamance, for the manufacture and wholesale of liquor by the state to counties which may vote to establish liquor stores, was

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Services at the Church Of the Advent Sunday

Farm Bureau Leaders To Plead for Control Plan

Headed by Farm Bureau leaders, farmers from the tobacco-growing sections of the state will appear before a joint meeting of the house and senate in Raleigh next Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock and plead for the passage of a proposed compact law for control of tobacco production this coming season.

Mr. Henry S. Everett, president of the Martin County Bureau will head the delegation from this county, it was learned. All farmers interested in the movement are invited and urged to attend.

Schedule Sunday Services At the Methodist Church

Church school, 9:45 a. m.
Morning service, 11 o'clock.
Epworth League, 6:45 p. m.
Evening service, 7:30 o'clock.
Holly Springs, 3 p. m.
Don't forget that this is orphanage month and next Sunday is orphanage Sunday at Holly Springs.

PLAN OPERATION OF POULTRY CAR IN FEW WEEKS

No Contract Yet Made, but Several Dealers Likely To Enter Bids

Plans are now being considered for the operation of a series of poultry cars in this county within the next few weeks, T. B. Brandon, county agent, said this week. No contracts have been made with poultry dealers, but it is understood the Farmers' Cooperative Exchange will be on the market and possibly other large poultry purchasers will enter bids, it was pointed out.

Large poultry surpluses are depressing the northern markets at this time, but it is hoped that prices will show added strength as the main shipping season gets underway. Last year farmers were paid around 17 and 18 cents for their poultry at the cooperative car operating in this county. The western markets were frozen up at that time, and shipments from this point, it will be remembered, were made with difficulty during the cold weather and while the roads were in bad condition. As soon as the weather moderated out west, shipments began to pour into the cities of the east, and carloads of poultry were placed in storage, and the supply is said to be holding down prices now.

Late quotations place the price average around 14 cents for colored hens. Whether a rise in the price can be expected later in the season is a matter for speculation. Some are of the opinion since meat prices are so high that poultry should command greater attention, but so far the strong market for meat has not affected the poultry market.

No estimate on the supply of poultry in this section is available, but it is generally believed that it is no larger, if as large, than it was a year ago. Only a few farmers in this county have asked about cooperative shipments, but it is Mr. Brandon's plan to operate a car soon, the extent of its patronage to determine a shipping schedule later in the season.

Work Progressing on New Farm Building

Work on the Martin County agricultural building next to the county courthouse is progressing rapidly and will possibly be ready for occupancy by the farm and home agents and the several other agricultural agencies by the first of March. The structure has been closed in, and plasterers will start work the early part of next week, it is planned. Construction work is ahead of schedule, and completion of the building work is expected before other similar projects are finished in several near-by counties.

In an effort to give unskilled labor as much work as possible, the builders have lost much time, no doubt, but the delayed schedule was considered advisable.

Man Faces Charge For Hunting Without License

Adjudged guilty of hunting without license, Thomas Hill, colored, was given a 30-day jail sentence suspended upon payment of cost and purchase of license by Justice J. L. Hassell in his court here Wednesday.

George Joyner and Oscar James, facing similar charges, were found not guilty.

River Falling Slowly At This Point Report States

Fed by frequent rains throughout the basin, the Roanoke, after reaching a flood crest of 3 feet over its banks last Sunday, was reported receding slowly today, the stream dropping only 2 feet so far this week. No additional rise is expected and the stream will be within its banks about next Monday or Tuesday, it was predicted by the observer at the river here this morning.

No record rainfall has been reported in this section, but during 12 of the first 14 days of this month the weather station here has reported some precipitation.

O. G. Willard Purchases Shoe Shop Partnership

Wheeler Manning, for several years part owner and operator of Willard's Shoe Shop here, recently sold his interest in the business, and Mr. O. G. Willard is now sole operator of the establishment. Mr. Willard moved here a few days ago to take active charge of the shop management.