

Whiskey Business Meets Opposition During Past Week

Local and County Officers Deliver Telling Blows Against Traffic

Local and county officers dealt the illicit liquor business a severe blow last week when they rounded up eight stills and interrupted what was described as a wholesale distribution center. No arrests were effected, but at least one warrant is pending and investigations are underway in other cases, it was reliably learned.

Local officers J. H. Allsbrooks and John Gurganus centered their attention on the Plymouth Branch of the Coast Line railroad Saturday afternoon and confiscated thirty pints of white liquor, six 10-gallon kegs and three 5-gallon capacity tin cans. The liquor, bottled and apparently ready to enter retail channels, was found under some old tin where a home burned several months ago. The ownership of the liquor was allegedly vested in Oscar Hagin, but Hagin, learning about the raid, did not stay around long enough to deny ownership. He has not been seen since the raid. The man, charged with violating the liquor laws on several occasions, is now at liberty under a two-year suspended road sentence.

Following up the Saturday afternoon raid, Officers John Roebuck and E. Ramie captured a liquor car and two gallons of liquor in the same neighborhood the following morning about 4:30 o'clock. The driver made his escape, and later in the day the owner reported the car stolen. The machine, a 1935 Ford coupe, was returned to the owner yesterday.

Completing a busy week in their enforcement activities, County officers, headed by J. H. Roebuck, wrecked two liquor stills in Cross Roads Township Saturday afternoon bringing the total for the week up to eight plants. The Cross Roads plant included a 100-gallon copper and a 35-gallon capacity kettle. The plant had been in operation up until a short time before the officers reached it. No beer and no liquor could be found.

Starting off on Monday of last week, the county officers wrecked two liquor plants and poured out 700 gallons of beer and ten gallons of liquor in the Free Union section of Jamesville Township. On Tuesday they wrecked a plant in the upper end of Robersonville Township and poured out about 300 gallons of beer. Returning to the Bear Grass hunting ground, the officers wrecked three plants and poured out more than 3,000 gallons of beer along the Beaufort boundary.

So far this month, the officers have found and wrecked nine liquor plants.

Experienced Men For Commissioners

Apparently satisfied with the administration of their town government, local citizens believe in having experienced men handle their political affairs.

The members of the present board of commissioners have collectively served a total of 57 years. The individual records are as follows: G. H. Harrison, 20 years; L. P. Linsley, twelve years; N. C. Green, 10 years; Luther M. Peel, eight years, and V. D. Godwin, seven years. Mr. Godwin was appointed in 1932 to fill the position made vacant by Commissioner E. S. McCabe, his election following in order since that time.

Serving one term in 1923-25, Mayor J. L. Hassell came back ten years later to head the town government and will start his fourth consecutive term next June 1.

Two Men Wanted Here For Brutal Assault

A warrant, charging them with an assault with deadly weapons, was issued here yesterday for Johnnie Slade and Eli Evans, colored. The two men are said to have robbed and nearly cut to death Willie James Johnson on Sycamore Street last Sunday morning following a row starting over a crap game.

Johnson with a 14-stitch gash in his neck and bad bruises on his leg, told officers that he was "shooting crap" with the two men, that he had eight points to pull. "I pulled them, and when I reached for the money, they jumped on me and nearly killed me," Johnson said. Evans wielded the knife and Slade did the rocking, according to Johnson's version of the brutal attack.

Girls and Boys to "Sell" State at the World's Fair

Selected from several hundred applicants, ten of North Carolina's fairest young ladies and young men who will "sell" North Carolina to visitors at the New York World's Fair are now making an educational tour of the State, seeking interesting bits of information pertaining to the historical, economic and social progress in the great commonwealth. The group, including one or two from the nearby county of Nash, will visit here with their director tomorrow for a brief period. Mayor John L. Hassell, rooked by a group of good-looking teachers from New Jersey last Tuesday, is slicking his hair back and getting ready to do some more entertaining tomorrow. While he is inclined to believe that the New Jersey teachers

constitute another "Lost Colony," he is certain his home folks will not rook him and he has made extensive research to dig up all the fine historical points and outline the great natural resources of Williamston and Martin County for the group who will represent the State at the fair on or soon after May 1.

The young people are preparing themselves to answer a "million" questions which fair visitors are certain to ask of them about North Carolina and its subdivisions.

As "Ambassadors of Friendliness" these young girls and boys will cooperate in the plan of North Carolina to bring more vacationists to the State each year. They will be stationed possibly in the State's exhibit booth at the fair.

Child Is Killed In Car Accident At Everetts

MARRIAGE

The first marriage license issued in this county under the new law went to John Rogers and Mary Lee Beach, colored couple, last Saturday. The couple presented proper certificates and evidence upon which the license was issued, it was learned.

The marriage license business has dwindled to a low point following the passage of laws by the last legislature requiring the applicants to show a "clean" bill of health. Several couples are said to have gone from this county to out-of-state points to marry, but certificates required in those cases have not been filed. Persons marrying outside the State must file certain health certificates within sixty days after returning to the State.

Last Rites Held Saturday For Car Accident Victim

Large Crowd Present For Funeral of John W. Cherry, Jr.

Last rites for John W. Cherry, Jr., Everetts youth who lost his life in an automobile accident there last Friday afternoon, were held in the Baptist church there Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. E. C. Shoe, of the Robersonville Baptist church, and Rev. James H. Smith, pastor of the Williamston Memorial Baptist church. Interment was in the Everetts Cemetery.

His life snuffed out while counting his marbles on the main street in Everetts last Friday afternoon, the little accident victim was well-liked and held the respect of old and young. His death came as a great shock to the family, to his little playmates and the people of the community as a whole. The services were largely attended, and the floral offering was large.

Besides his parents, the child is survived by nine brothers and sisters, David John Cherry, member of the Williamston baseball pitching staff; Mrs. Roscoe Gaylord, of Plymouth; Mrs. Dewey Hathaway, of Bethel; Mrs. James Johnson, of Robersonville; William Nathan Cherry, Eleanor Gray Cherry, Ruby Cherry, Mary Alice Cherry and Mack Cherry, all of Everetts.

Announce Speakers At Everetts Commencement

On Sunday, April 23, at 11 o'clock Rev. C. B. Harris, of Atlantic, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon to the seventh-grade graduating class in the school auditorium at Everetts. The graduation exercises will be held on Wednesday, April 26, at 10 a. m. The address will be delivered by Ronald Hocutt of the Highway Safety Division, Raleigh.

Library Book Club To Hold Meeting Tonight

The local library book club will hold a meeting in the legion hut this evening at 8 o'clock, the president, Mrs. J. C. Cooke urging all members to be present and extending a cordial invitation to others to join. The meeting will be held in connection with an interesting health picture to be shown by the Martin County Health department in the hut.

Driver Of Death Car Is Exonerated By Coroner's Jury

John W. Cherry, Jr., Has Head Crushed Against Light Pole

The motor vehicle claimed its third life in the new year in this county last Friday afternoon at 5:25 o'clock when little six-year-old John W. Cherry, Jr., was crushed to death by the bumper of Frank Spruill's car against an electric light pole on Everetts' main street. The little youngster, just six years, one month and eight days old, was killed instantly. His head was badly crushed but other parts of his body were untouched. The bumper and the body of the car were pushed in six or eight inches.

The little fellow, next to the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Cherry, of Everetts, a few minutes before had purchased a small bag of marbles. Seeking a refuge of safety, the child sat down by the pole and was busily counting his marbles when his life was snuffed out. Spruill, a highly respected Plymouth citizen and traveling representative for a Norfolk firm, came out of Ayers' store on the town's main street and entered his car. The driver looked in his rear-vision mirror and seeing nothing in his way started to back around and turn into the highway. His car struck the pole, and J. S. Ayers, Jr., a witness, told Spruill, "You hit a pole." You better drive up and see if you damaged your car." There were several other witnesses, but none of them knew the child had been caught between the car bumper and pole until Spruill drove forward a few feet. Going to the back of the car, Spruill and Ayers saw the lifeless body of the little fellow.

Patrolman Hunt reached the scene of the accident about that time, and he called Coroner S. R. Biggs who arranged an inquest for the following morning at 10 o'clock.

J. S. Ayers, Sr., C. R. Simpson, George Taylor, Jr., Neal James, Joe B. Bullock and A. L. Keel were empaneled to hear the evidence. Spruill almost completely unnerved, appeared for the inquest. B. B. Biggs, J. S. Ayers, Jr., and William Bullock testified before the jury. Ayers told how Spruill had left the store, entered his car and started to back around, that no one knew the child was near the car until the small lifeless body was found. The testimony of the other witnesses corroborated, almost in detail, the evidence offered by young Ayers. Spruill, asking that he be allowed to make a statement, told virtually the same story. Grief-stricken, the man almost choked when he tried to tell his story of the tragedy.

After hearing the evidence, the jury dismissed the case for more than thirty minutes before ruling the death accidental and exonerating Spruill. The case was discussed from every angle, the jury finally reaching its verdict with the understanding that it was possible for the county grand jury to reopen the case should that body consider such action necessary.

It was established at the inquest that the driver's rear-vision was not blocked by sample cases, that he looked back to see if there was anything in the way before he put his car in motion.

Ill with pneumonia at her home in Farm Life, Mrs. George E. Roberson was reported better this morning.

Local Boy Scouts Have Big Time In Camp At Tarboro

Jimmie Leggett Holds Seat With Connie Mack at Game Friday

(By JIMMIE LEGGETT) Twenty-five members of Boy Scout Troop No. 27, Williamston, loaded with packs and blankets and various personal equipment, assembled on the high school grounds last Friday morning ready to begin their trip to Tarboro for the annual Camporee. Promptly at 9:30, Scoutmaster Horace Ray appeared with a truck furnished through the courtesy of Mr. Cortez Green, and, after inspection of health certificates, the boys soon loaded their equipment and were off to Tarboro.

Arriving on the Common in Tarboro about 11 o'clock, the four patrol leaders registered their patrols and immediately ordered tents be pitched. Each of the Williamston patrols was scattered among the hundred and thirty-one patrols which were busy making camp. As soon as camp was set up, the boys prepared and ate dinner.

On Friday afternoon the Scouts paraded through Tarboro's streets to the ball park where they were the guests of Connie Mack at a baseball game between the Philadelphia Athletics and the Williamsport Grays. I had the good fortune to represent Williamston and sat with nine other Scouts in the box of Connie Mack and the Scout executives. After the game, all Scouts returned to camp to cook supper and prepare for inspection. Major Parks, army officer, and Scout leaders, made the inspection of the whole camp site. That night the twelve hundred Scouts were divided into Tuscarora, Cherokee and Croatan tribes for three big camp fires.

Saturday was contest day and the Scouts were busy with contests of skill in signaling, woodcutting, first aid, undressing, map-making, knot tying and compass use. The highlights of Saturday's program was a great camp fire, held in the ball park. Stunts and other entertaining made the program especially interesting.

On Sunday all Scouts attended a worship service after which ribbons were awarded to patrols having achieved perfection in various camping items. Each Williamston patrol won a red ribbon for earning 700 or more perfection points.

Our troop returned home about 12 o'clock Sunday after spending two and one-half days at a most successful Camporee. Highly pleased with winning red ribbons indicating second place in camping skill, all boys reported an enjoyable experience in Tarboro.

Educational Health Pictures At The Hut

Three special pictures, highly educational and entertaining, will be shown tonight at 8 o'clock in the American Legion hut on Watts street by the staff of the Martin County Health department.

The show will be centered around three vital health problems as they relate to the "Conquest of Diphtheria," "Man Against Microbes," and "Body Defenses Against Disease."

Shown in the Bear Grass community house last evening, the special picture was well received by a fair-size audience.

The picture has sound effect and will be shown on a special machine recently purchased by the Presbyterian church in this county.

No admission fee will be charged and the general public is cordially invited to see it.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weston, Miss Lela Weston and Mrs. W. O. White attended the funeral of Mrs. S. M. Bennett in Aurora yesterday afternoon.

NEW CAR

Robert Rice Reynolds, North Carolina's "Our Bob" United States Senator, has a new automobile, and it is understood that now he is never late in meeting his appointments. The model, sporty to the nth degree, is not like the old dilapidated trap he rode into office on against Cameron Morrison nearly seven years ago.

The Senator visited friends here Sunday, but reports state that with election time six years off he did not spend a great deal of time shaking the multitude's hands.

Fate of the Slot Machine Rests with Commissioners

Given legal recognition, partial at least in the State by the recent legislature, the slot machine is almost certain to face a battle at the next meeting of the Martin commissioners before it can start gathering up stray nickels in strict observance of the law. Until the board of commissioners discuss the matter, there will be no slot machines operated in this county, according to a meaningful report coming direct from the office of the sheriff this week.

At least one of the machines was "planted" in the county a few days ago. It was removed immediately by order of the sheriff. A representative high up in the slot machine business and riding in a big Packard automobile came to see the sheriff, and pleaded for the privilege to start planting the machines at every cross roads store and filling station. The officer cited him to At-

torney General McMullan's ruling, but still the representative insisted that he be allowed to start the business. The attorney general says that the machine is not legal until after June 1, and the sheriff says no machines will be operated in the county prior to that time.

The ruling virtually settles the slot machine question until June, and then it becomes a white elephant in the hands of the county commissioners. As the law is understood here, the county commissioners can license the machines or refuse to license them. That'll be one of the board members' problems when they meet Monday week.

On the strength of what the last legislature did, slot machine owners have already started gathering up stray nickels in their machines in hundreds of country-side stores and filling stations.

Vote Of Endorsement Given Town Officials

Stamp Of Approval Given Williamston's Town's Government

Nomination Virtually Equal To Election Of the Nominees

Williamston citizens virtually settled their town politics for another two years last Friday evening when they gave the present administration a unanimous vote of approval. Assembling in their biennial nominating convention in the court-house, the mere handful—88 men and women—went through the formal routine in the record time of thirty minutes. Mayor John L. Hassell was renominated by acclamation, and the old board members, Messrs. G. H. Harrison, N. C. Green, Luther M. Peel, V. D. Godwin and L. P. Linsley, were unanimously renominated. It was one of the most harmonious conventions held here in a long number of years. No opposition was expressed or implied, and the convention dispensed with the written ballot to express itself by a standing vote.

Ordered to be held by the town commissioners in regular session on May 3, the convention was opened by Mayor John L. Hassell who turned the meeting over to H. G. Horton, temporary chairman. F. M. Manning was named secretary, and the convention organization was made permanent. No rules or regulations were considered necessary, and the convention chairman immediately called for nominations. The same pattern in effect two years ago was closely followed again last Friday evening. Offering the nomination of Mayor John L. Hassell for mayor, Elbert S. Peel briefly reviewed the progress of the town during the past two years, citing the extensive home-building program that has almost filled the comparatively new street on Marshall Avenue and extended itself to other sections of the town. The motion for the nomination was seconded by J. E. Pope, and upon the motion of B. A. Criter the candidate was nominated by acclamation.

Chairman Horton then called for the nomination of commissioners, and R. L. Coburn, after linking the old board members with the march of progress outlined by E. S. Peel in his nominating speech, offered the names of Messrs. Harrison, Green, Peel, Godwin and Linsley. The motion was seconded by H. L. Swain, the unanimous nomination of the old board being expressed by a standing vote a few seconds later.

Addressing the convention briefly—

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Blue Mold Delays The Transplanting Of Crop

Severe and general attacks of blue mold has almost completely interrupted the transplanting of tobacco plants in this county. Despite the heavy attack, there is little talk about a plant shortage.

A much-needed rain last evening and early today will possibly speed up the transplanting activities during the latter part of this week or just as soon as plants "grow out" of the blue mold.

A few farmers started transplanting the crop several days ago, but none of them is understood to have completed the task at this time.

Former Local Man Wins Damage Suit In Supreme Court

Suit Against R. G. Harrison, School Chairman, Ruled Unfounded

An account of the ruling of the State Supreme Court in the \$5,000 damage suit against R. G. Harrison, former Williamston citizen, will be read with interest by his many friends here and throughout the county. The account appearing a few days ago in the Henderson Dispatch follows:

R. G. Harrison, Henderson banker and chairman of the Vance County Board of Education, won a decision in the State Supreme Court late last Wednesday on an appeal by demurrer from a ruling by Judge R. Hunt Parker in Vance Superior court last October in a \$5,000 damage action brought for an alleged slander.

In effect, the supreme court ruled that embarrassment, humiliation and mental suffering are not necessary grounds for damage in slander suits. Associate Justice A. A. F. Seawell wrote the decision, in favor of the local school chairman. Mrs. Mae Bridges Scott, wife of B. A. Scott, the principal of the Dabney high school, was the plaintiff in the action. When the case was up for trial here last October, Judge Parker was about to rule against until certain amendments were made, when he permitted trial to proceed, but the defendant entered a demurrer against the court's ruling, and then appealed to the State Supreme court.

At the trial, Mrs. Scott charged that Mr. Harrison had said that while her husband was principal of a school in Northampton county she was forbidden by authorities from going on the grounds and premises of the Jackson high school, and "the reason he (Harrison) was not re-electing B. A. Scott was due to the character and reputation of his wife."

"Embarrassment, humiliation and mental suffering caused by defamation, may be considered in connection with slanders, which are actionable per se," Seawell wrote. "But standing alone, they will not be sufficient as an allegation of special damage. The injury must be material and pecuniary. Perhaps because humiliation and the poignancy of mental distress are not easily measured in money values, they have been, at least in slander cases, considered an aggravation of damages."

Scott was re-elected principal of the Dabney high school last year, but with the understanding that he would not seek re-election this year, the chairman said.

Support Local Man For Group President

Meeting in regular session at Jamesville, last Thursday evening, the Martin County Schoolmasters passed a resolution endorsing J. C. Manning, superintendent of Martin County schools, for the position of president of the Northeastern district of the North Carolina Educational Association. The resolution, unanimously passed at the meeting and carrying the names of Principals C. B. Martin, J. T. Uzzle, and D. N. Hix, reads:

Whereas: The said County of Martin has not been duly represented in the distribution of officers in the Northeastern district of the N. C. E. A. and:

Whereas: The Superintendent of Schools in the said County is eminently qualified by his leadership, experience, ability and interest to fill with honor and distinction, both to the office and the district the office of President, and:

Whereas: This organization does hereby go on record as favoring the nomination and election of said J. C. Manning to the above mentioned office, and:

Whereas: The President of the Schoolmasters Club be empowered to call a special meeting of the club in the early part of September to formulate plans for putting into effect the said resolution.

Hearing In Fatal Bus Accident To Be Held

A hearing in the case growing out of an accident that cost Ruler Lanier, young colored girl, her life on the Jamesville Highway on the 25th of last month will be heard here this afternoon by Justice A. Corey. John Madison, driver of the car that struck and fatally injured the high school girl, has been summoned along with several witnesses to appear for the hearing. Madison is a Lexington man.

CARD SALE

Although preparations are going forward for the production of another tobacco crop there continues a demand for leaf marketing cards, according to reports coming from the county agent's office.

Farmers are advised against the sale of their cards at the small price of one-half cent per pound, but regardless of the advice and the small price offered, quite a few farmers are offering the surplus poundage for sale. It has been suggested that the farmer will help the tobacco situation by destroying his cards which are being used for the marketing of cheap scrap tobacco. Outside interests are purchasing the cards, it was stated.

A Lone Case Heard By Superior Court In Special Session

Court Working on \$10,000 Damage Suit This Morning

Convening a special term of the Martin County Superior court here yesterday, Judge Henry A. Grady, of New Bern, cleared a lone case from the docket and brought the calendar up to date. This morning the court turned its attention to the \$10,000 damage suit brought by J. E. Pope, administrator, against Homer Glosson who is alleged to have been operating a truck that struck and fatally injured Isaiah Hardison, colored man, near Darlast September. The case was continued until tomorrow when it was learned that several witnesses could not be here today.

The lone case cleared from the docket yesterday centered around a claim by Mrs. Christine E. Whitman of Parmele against the North American Accident Insurance Company. Mrs. Whitman claimed that she took out a policy with the defendant company and that she was incapacitated thereafter during a period of nine weeks. She further claimed that she was entitled to recover \$200 from the insurance company. Apparently finding some irregularities in the application, Judge Grady answered the issues in the case in favor of the defense. Attorney Paul D. Roberson, representing the plaintiff, gave notice of appeal to the State Supreme court.

Taking a recess in the early afternoon, the court resumed its work this morning when it started hearing a case centering around the will of Gus Coffield, late of Robersonville, whose bloodkin are asking that the will be set aside. It is understood that they claim Coffield gave his property to his friends and ignored his relatives.

Better Fishing Reported On Roanoke This Week

After a lull during the past few days, fishing activities are again attracting much attention on the Roanoke. Larger catches are being reported at the fisheries and at other points along the stream.

For the first time since the early part of the season, the catches are now large enough to supply the "battery" trade.