

Youthful Prisoner Threatens Life Of Chas. B. Roebuck

Car Went Out of Control As Officer Left the Wheel To Recover Gun

Returning to this county with two youthful prisoners last Sunday, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck barely escaped with his life when Arnold Wallace, one of his charges, stuck a gun in his back and ordered him to stop the car. "The boy, just fifteen years old, caught his finger behind the trigger and that saved my life," Sheriff Roebuck said, adding that he was not frightened in the least at the time, but that he got a bit shaky when he recalled seeing the hammer of the .38 calibre pistol in striking position.

Charged with breaking into and robbing the safe of the Western Union Telegraph Company here—the early part of this month, Wallace and his young friend, Arthur Edmondson, were being returned to this county for trial from Wilmington where they were arrested and booked for four robberies there during a period of a few days. Considering their youthfulness and showing a fatherly interest in their cases, Sheriff Roebuck did not place chains about the boys' wrists, but started the long drive home with Edmondson riding in the front seat with him and Wallace on the back seat. When the trio reached a filling station near Kinston, the officer stopped his car and bought the boys soft drinks and peanut butter sandwiches. While the officer was paying for the drinks, Edmondson slipped the officer's gun from the dashboard compartment and handed it to Wallace.

The sheriff recalls that the boys were a bit nervous after the stop, but everything went along smoothly until they almost reached Williamston. "Mr. Roebuck, what would you do if someone stuck a pistol in your face?" young Edmondson asked the officer. The sheriff assured him he would do the best he could, little realizing that he would actually offer a real illustration within the following minute.

The question was hardly out of Edmondson's mouth before Wallace pressed the barrel of the large pistol to the officer's back, just about the middle of his shoulders. "Stop the car, sheriff, and stop it quick. I mean it," Wallace told the officer. Driving the car at a speed close to fifty miles an hour, the officer took his foot off the accelerator and looked around. When he saw the hammer of the deadly weapon drawn back and in firing position, the officer went into action. "I threw the car out of gear" and lightly applied the brakes, and grabbed for the pistol. Missing the gun, I turned the steering wheel loose and crawled over the front seat into the back and took the gun away from the boy, the car running into a tobacco field. When I pulled the gun from the boy's hand I saw he had his finger behind the trigger instead of on it," the officer said adding that he believed Wallace would have fired the pistol had he gotten his finger on the trigger.

Asked if he wasn't ashamed of himself, Edmondson explained that he did not plan to kill the officer but had intended to wound him "a little bit" so he and Edmondson could get away.

The sheriff had planned to take the boys to see their relatives near the Williamston fairgrounds, but after the little incident they were placed directly in jail.

Sanitary Drive Is To Include Entire Residential Section

Successful Response by Business House Operators Reported by Health Office

Having met with a marked success in the business districts, the town's sanitary drive is being extended into the residential sections this week under the direction of the health department.

Commenting on the drive to date, Dr. F. E. Wilson stated that there has been a marked improvement in store and backlot sanitation, that there was a marked cooperation on the part of store operators. He also pointed out that quite a few homeowners had already started cooperating with the movement and that a marked improvement could be expected in sanitary conditions on a town-wide front.

In extending the drive into the residential areas, the health officer is releasing a letter to householders, which follows, in part:

"The commissioners in their meeting passed the four following resolutions as the hub around which the campaign would revolve:

"To improve the sanitary environment within the town; to promote the community spirit to become more conscious of the public health, particularly toward better sanitation of the business district and the homes; to insist on making Williamston a

Plan Tobacco Grading Schools In Martin County on Friday

Recognizing the enormous loss experienced by many farmers through the faulty preparation of their tobacco for market, the Federal Grading Service of the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the North Carolina State College Extension Service will conduct two brief grading schools in this county on Friday of this week. It was belatedly announced today by the office of the county farm agent.

The first of the schools will be held in the new school gymnasium at Jamesville that morning at 9:30 o'clock, and the second will be held that afternoon at 2 o'clock in Oak City just back of the ABC store, it was announced.

J. O. Armistead, of the Federal Grading Service, will conduct the school, and he will be assisted by

Lloyd T. Weeks, tobacco specialist for the North Carolina Extension Service.

A general invitation is being issued all tobacco farmers to attend the school nearest them.

Improper grading, it is estimated, is costing tobacco farmers thousands of dollars annually. While it is possible that farmers are thoroughly acquainted in handling the task, the grading specialists, it is believed, will be able to give a few pointers that might be of material aid to the graders. On the warehouse floors nearly every day, several piles of tobacco are passed by the buyers because of improper gradings. The owners of the tobacco are ordinarily asked to regrade the tobacco or the actual figure it would bring when properly graded.

Youthful Desperadoes Are Checked by Law

INDICTMENTS

Five indictments are staring L. B. McCormick in the face as the result of the alleged "possession and distribution" of illegal slot machines in this county. A sixth warrant, charged illegal operation of a slot machine, was brought against Mrs. Myrtle Knox, of Robersonville. The warrants are returnable before Judge H. O. Peel in the county court on September 11.

Four of the five machines confiscated by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck are of the race-horse type and cost as much as \$550 each. Two of the machines were taken from business houses in Robersonville, a third in Bear Grass and a fourth in Gold Point. The fifth machine, commonly known as the "one arm bandit" was taken from the home of Mrs. Knox in Robersonville.

Series Of Accidents Reported In County During the Weekend

No One Seriously Hurt in 3 Automobile-Truck And Cart Wrecks

Last week-end was open season on automobile, truck and cart wrecks in this immediate section, incomplete reports stating that at least seven persons were injured, two rather seriously, and that at least \$750 worth of property damaged. No estimate of medical and hospital costs was available, but repairs to the humans will run well into the hundreds of dollars.

Guilford Brown started things off with a bang early last Friday morning when he ran his old car into the rear end of a truck on the Washington Road near Skewarkey. Twenty-six stitches were necessary to close a wound on Brown's face. His companion, Tom Watson, according to last reports from the hospital, had not regained consciousness, and his recovery is considered doubtful. Brown, colored barber, was released from the hospital Saturday.

Albert Wilson, young colored boy, was painfully but not seriously injured when he turned a Chevrolet coupe over near the county home last Friday afternoon. Damage to the car was estimated at around \$200. Picking up the injured man, Fred Ayers was rushing him to a doctor's office when he sideswiped Farmer Jesse Keel's pick-up truck in front of the Biggs Funeral Home on West Main Street. Damage to the truck was estimated at \$10 and little damage was done to the Ayers car.

Farmer Frank Barber and his grandson were painfully cut and bruised but not badly hurt when their cart was knocked off the highway into Sweet Water Creek swamp by a new Oldsmobile driven by Roger Critcher, Jr., about 8 o'clock last Saturday night. Mr. Barber was cut about the eye, and his grandson was cut and bruised on the head. The mule was badly hurt and the cart was torn to pieces and scattered in the swamp. Reports state that the mule and cart and its occupants were thrown quite a distance before they landed in the swamp. Young Critcher, accompanied by Harry Taylor and Walter Cooke, stated that he

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Mule Killed In Road Near Jamesville Monday

Breaking out of the lot on the farm of Miss Annie Glasgow, near Jamesville, yesterday afternoon, a young mule was struck and instantly killed by a lumber truck driven by J. M. Mizelle. The animal, valued at between \$150 and \$200, darted into the road and was struck by the lumber on the truck.

Started Out Early To Record Daring History Of Crime

Boys Who Threatened Life of Sheriff Are Charged With Robberies

Two Williamston lads, Arnold Wallace and Arthur Edmondson, both fifteen years of age, are now in the Martin County jail to await their fate following a crime rampage patterned after a seasoned gangster's record.

Five alleged robberies and an attempted hold-up were regarded as minor events by the boys who explained that they were considering holding up a bank in Wilmington and a swing into the northwest before they were taken into custody and their crime careers checked by Wilmington officers last week.

Possibly the victims of inheritance and anything but a wholesome environment, the two lads are said to have patterned their first robbery after one seen in a movie just a few days before. They are also said to have gained other ideas from the movies that headed them for a notorious crime record.

"I want to make a book of crime history," one of the boys said, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck explaining that as far as he was concerned the climax of the story was reached when the lads attempted to hold him up at the end of a gun while he was returning to this county from Wilmington last Sunday.

"We had planned to hold up a bank, get a car and guns and head for the northwest when we were arrested," one of the boys was quoted as saying.

Admitting the robbery of the Western Union Telegraph Company office here on the evening of August 8, the boys described how it was effected. Wallace, at one time employed by the office as messenger boy, had learned the combination and made a study of the building. "We took a rope off a pony in the backlot and just as we started to climb on top of the building, Officer John Roebuck came by. We ducked down, and he did not see us," Wallace explained. Continuing, he said, "We then climbed on top of the building and lifted the skylight." Edmondson was said to have held the rope as Wallace let himself down into the office. Working the safe combination easily, the lad had the safe open in a short time and was said to have taken out \$25, leaving about \$28 in the cash drawer of the safe. Wallace maintains that he took only \$23 from the safe, but admitted that Operator Hatchett added sales tax and interest to run the amount to \$25.

"Just as I started to climb out, Officer John Roebuck passed the front window of the building, and I dropped to the floor," Wallace said. Edmondson, who was holding the other end of the rope, tumbled over (Continued on page six)

Free-For-All Fight At Jamesville On Saturday

A goodly number of Jamesville's colored population engaged in a serious free-for-all fight at John H. Ellison's store last Saturday night. Officer Paul Holliday referring to the scrap as a forerunner of events in Europe.

Warrants have been drawn against seven of the alleged participants, and the charges will be aired at a hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell here next Friday. Defendants in the case are Jack Neal, Andrew and James Marriner, Amos Latham, Susanne Quarles, Jess Adkins and I. T. Moore. Andrew Marriner and Amos Latham were cut with pocket knives during the scrap, it was reported.

The cause of the fight could not be determined, reports stating that the participants did not know who was fighting who and why come.

Revenue Forces In Series Of Extensive Raids In The County

Two Defendants Bound Over To Federal Court for Trial In October

Stretching a net from one end of the county to the other last week-end, County enforcement and Federal officers dealt the illegal liquor traffic a terrific blow. Starting in the upper part of the county last Thursday, the officers completed the drive in the Dardens section of Jamesville Township Sunday noon.

Centering their attention on the wholesale-retail end of the illicit business, the officers made three arrests, recognized a fourth alleged violator of the liquor laws, made twelve searches and confiscated two automobiles.

Last Thursday, the officers wrecked 30-gallon drum and poured out 150 gallons of beer at a plant in the Hassell section of Hamilton Township. Making an impromptu investigation of territory along Highway No. 11, the officers cited Selma Smith in his automobile near the Edgecombe-Martin line and suspicioning him they started a chase. Overtaking him after a mile run down the highway, the officers ordered him to stop, but Smith increased his speed. When he reached the Bill Purvis home, he turned into the yard, drove the car around the barns and out-houses and then headed for the open fields, the officers in close pursuit. Realizing the race was lost with his car, Smith cut the ignition off and jumped out in an attempt to add speed with his own hooves. The officers had him before he could run a dozen steps. The Smith car went on through a small cotton patch and came to a stop in a field of peanuts. Two bags of materials for the manufacture of liquor were found, and the car was confiscated. The case against Smith was continued for two weeks in county court Monday.

Last Saturday morning, the officers started an investigation of the small retail business and searched four houses in Hamilton, one in Hassell and one in Poplar Point. Not more than half a pint was found at any of the places, and no charges were brought. At one home, the head of the house explained that she had put a quantity of quinine in the liquor for use in combating malaria. Invited to taste the concoction, the officers refused.

Saturday afternoon, Officers Roebuck, Haislip, Peel and Federal agents Smith, Harshaw and Adler, of Elizabeth City, raided the store of Arthur Harrison in Bear Grass and found forty pop bottles filled with liquor. The bottles of liquor were packed right in with bottles holding soft drinks. The defendant was given a preliminary hearing before U. S. Commissioner Walter Halberstadt and placed under a \$300 bond for his appearance in the federal court at Washington next October.

That afternoon the same officers searched the premises of Grover Nicholson, near Williamston, and found several gallons of liquor, about one-half gallon inside the house and seven gallons in a bean field. At a hearing Monday, the defendant was placed under a \$1,000 bond for his appearance in the federal court at Washington in October.

Sunday morning, the officers started to Free Union. When they reached Gardner's Creek they stopped and searched Seth Hawkins and Willie Johnson, relieving each of them of a half pint. Charges are pending against the two men.

At Jamesville, the officers met Lazarus Williams, deaf mute, who was driving through the town with several friends. Picking up his trail, the officers followed him to a colored home. Moses Smallwood got out of the car with a pint on his person and two gallons of raw spirits were found in the backseat upholstery. Williams escaped through the house and into a cornfield. The car was confiscated and Williams' arrest is expected momentarily.

Continuing on to the Free Union area, the raiders found about a quart of liquor hid outside of a store. They were unable to determine ownership and no action was taken in the case.

While doing no great damage to crops this season, the 1939 rainfall is considerably in excess of that for the first eight months of last year, comparative reports showing 38.66 inches through August of last year and 43.75 inches up until the present time for this year. Very little is heard about the possible damage to crops as a result of the heavy rain but it is believed that the peanut crop will be disappointing if the rains continue.

More rain has fallen so far this month than in any other month since 1935 when 11.41 inches fell in July. Reports from the Roanoke River station here this morning stated that 9.88 inches of rain have fallen since August 1, the heaviest fall coming last Sunday afternoon between two and four o'clock when 2.81 inches of rain were recorded. The nearly three-inch rain Sunday was followed by a one-inch fall yesterday.

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Tobacco Market Holding Firm As Sales Approach Million and Half-Pound Mark This Morning

Highway Accident Record

Martin County motorists went on a little rampage last week-end, the wild drives sending two to the hospital, several to local doctors, two cars to the junk heap and four cars and trucks to garages not to mention a horse-drawn cart that was torn to pieces and scattered in Sweet Water Creek.

Increased traffic, aggravated by rainy weather, cost the motoring public at least \$700 in property damage not to mention the expense of medical treatment and hospital attention.

The week-end accident record caused much comment, but apparently had little influence on the way the general public drives. Truck operators are running just about twice as fast as the rate of speed prescribed by law. Speeding through intersections and on busy streets is still common, and the wild dash to property destruction and death is gaining momentum rather than slackening up.

The only bright spot in the record is found in the death column where the number was not increased. However, one of the victims is hovering on the border of life and death.

An unofficial comparison of accident records in the county for the past week and for previous weeks in the year follows:

	Accidents	Injured	Killed	Property Damage
Last Week's Record	5	7	0	\$ 750.00
Prior Record	34	26	7	7,725.00
Totals	39	33	7	\$8,475.00

Issues Of Peace And War Remain Unsettled

Developments Now Await Reply From Germany's Hitler

Late Reports Maintain That Pact With Russia Has Not Been Signed

Uncertainty continues to surround the war front in Europe today as Germany and England busily engage in the exchange of notes, late reports stating that England is now awaiting a reply to its last-night note from Adolf Hitler. The message, said to have been in the process of preparation by Hitler and his advisers while Prime Minister Chamberlain addressed the English Parliament this morning, is expected momentarily.

The German dictator is said to have frowned upon the message when it was delivered to him last night by Ambassador Henderson, causing many to doubt that Hitler would even consider conciliation.

In his address to Parliament this morning, Chamberlain maintained a firm attitude against Hitler's proposed invasion of Poland, and he was cheered by the members during his talk. However, observers maintain that the prime minister has not closed the door to peace, and that war is not yet an assured thing. The contents of the message flown by Ambassador Henderson to Hitler last night have not been revealed in their entirety.

Hitler's reaction to the message last night was not at all favorable, indicating that he would not agree to a conciliation plan and that war would be the only alternative. Possibly his reply which is expected in England some time today will offer something more or less definite.

As the crucial situation becomes more aggravated, the friends of Hitler are apparently forsaking him. Italy's close stand with the mad man is not certain to continue if war breaks out.

The non-aggression pact with Russia, late reports maintain, has not been signed and no action in that connection will likely be taken before Friday of this week.

Preparations for war continue at a rapid pace in Europe. England is assigning war-time duties to its various governmental departments, attention being centered on keeping its trade routes open.

Disorders along the Polish border have been discredited, and the nations are taking it fairly easy as Hitler prepares and replies to England's last-night message.

Hopeful for peace, traders on the New York stock exchange showed increased activities today and stock prices climbed from two to three points above the closing figures yesterday.

School Bus Drivers Given Physical Examinations Here

Examining county school bus drivers this morning, County Health Officer F. E. Wilson found six of the 24 lads had defective eyesight. The findings will be turned over to State Highway Patrolmen who will decide whether or not the six boys will be allowed to operate school busses.

Examinations are being given applicants this afternoon in Robersonville.

Weather Conditions Cause Little Delay In Marketing Here

Averages Continue To Hold Up Despite Large Offering of Tips

Experiencing no marked interruption on account of unfavorable weather conditions, the local tobacco market continues to report heavy offerings. Supervisor K. B. Crawford announcing this morning that sales today would advance the season's

total to approximately one and one-half million pounds with a resulting average of slightly under 17 cents.

While it is generally agreed that the better quality of tobacco is bringing low prices as compared with those received in past seasons, most growers still maintain that they are receiving about as much as they expected. There is no general feeling of satisfaction, but considering the large crop and unsettled conditions in foreign countries, most farmers are fairly well pleased with their sales.

Possibly the local market had its best day of the season yesterday, when prices for quite a few grades showed noticeable strength and reached into the thirties. Quite a large number of piles sold for a price ranging between 26 and 29 cents, and averages approximating twenty-five cents were reported on the market. These prices were centered on those grades coming from the second "pulling," and the tobacco was of exceptional quality.

There was a fairly large percentage of tips on the floors, and while these types were selling good they had a tendency to pull down the general market average. Sales Supervisor K. B. Crawford stating that the price figure yesterday was well above sixteen cents.

Some farmers were of the opinion that the market was not quite as strong today as it was on opening day, but official statements indicated that the price trend was holding firm and that tobacco, grade for grade, was averaging about what it averaged yesterday.

Few tags are being turned by farmers on the local market to feature the selling activities. Another noticeable feature that is attracting special attention of farmers is the interest shown by the buyers in their work. Lively sales are in evidence from early morning until late afternoon, and spirited bidding is apparent at all times.

Reports coming from the farms indicate that heavy sales can be anticipated on the local market for quite a while.

REGISTRATIONS

All students who plan to attend the Williamston High School during the new term which will begin on Thursday, September 7, are asked to report for registration and final arrangement of class schedules on Thursday, August 31, and Friday, September 1. Parents are urged to cooperate by reminding their children to report at the high school building in accordance with the following schedule:

Thursday, Aug. 31: 8:30-11:30, Eighth and ninth grade students; Friday, Sept. 1: 8:30-11:30, Tenth and eleventh grade students; Friday, Sept. 1: 2:30-5:30, All post-graduates and commercial students.

Mrs. Alice Stallings Dies Near Jamesville Early This Morning

Funeral Services Will Be Conducted Wednesday at 3 o'clock

Mrs. Alice Stallings, widow of A. F. Stallings, died at her home near Jamesville this morning at 8 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Heart trouble, aggravated by the infirmities of age, was given as the immediate cause of her death. Experiencing feeble health for more than a year, Mrs. Stallings was able to be up until about three weeks ago, the end coming gradually and peacefully.

The daughter of the late David and Susan Armstrong, Mrs. Stallings was born in Poplar Point, this county, on December 16, 1862. At the tender age of seven years she moved with her family to Jamesville Township where she made her home until death.

In early womanhood she married A. Ferd Stallings, who died a few years ago. Six children, two sons, Messrs. Tostoe and Clarence Stallings, both of Jamesville, and four daughters, Mrs. Charles Simpson, of Robersonville; Mrs. F. R. Simpson, of Norfolk; Mrs. Enoch Gardner and Miss Oma Pearl Stallings, both of Jamesville, and Mrs. L. M. Brown, an adopted daughter, survive the union. She was the last member of her immediate family.

Mrs. Stallings, for a long number of years a member of the Cedar Branch Baptist Church, was held in high respect by everyone who knew her. She was a devoted and faithful mother. Christian-like ideals marked the home-life of the family under her guidance. She was a good neighbor and cherished the friendship of everyone. While her life was devoted to her home, she was faithful in her duties to the church and walked humbly and pleasingly in the sight of her Maker.

Funeral services will be conducted tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock by her pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister. Interment will follow in the family plot near the old family home.

Faculty Personnel For Local Schools Is Now Complete

Position Made Vacant by Recent Resignation Is Filled This Week

The local school committee this week completed faculty appointments for the new school term by electing M. B. Dunn, of Boone, N. C., to the fifth grade and building principal vacancy, created by the resignation of Lewis Enloe. Mr. Dunn attended the State University for two years and Appalachian State Teachers College for two years, receiving his degree from the latter institution in 1936. For the past three years he has served as sixth grade teacher and building principal in the Teachers School, of Duplin County.

The list of teachers follows: Primary department: Josephine Harrison, Williamston; Mrs. J. Paul Simpson, Williamston; Grace Talton, Clayton; Mary Benson, Benson; Estelle Crawford, Williamston; Ruth Manning, Williamston; Mrs. Vernon Bunting, Bethel.

Grammar grade department: Mrs. W. H. Coburn, Williamston; Dorcas Knowles, Hertford; Mrs. Charles Godwin, Williamston; Mildred Talley, Randleman; Mary Whitley, Murfreesboro; Mrs. Arthur White, Williamston; Mrs. C. B. Hassell, Williamston; M. B. Dunn, Boone; Public School Music, Kathryn Mewborn, Tarboro.

High school: Nancy Glover, Roanoke Rapids; Irene Mizelle, Snow Hill; James Robert Barrett, Elizabeth City; Betty Mayo Everett, Palmyra; Samuel R. Edwards, Williamston; Mrs. Samuel R. Edwards, Williamston; Mrs. Garland Barnhill, Williamston; Charles B. Toxey, Wake Forest; David N. Hix, Williamston.

Principal D. N. Hix has called for registration of high school students on Thursday and Friday of this week.