

Victim Of Unusual Accident Died Last Night In Hospital

Last Rites This Afternoon for John Fenner Beacham, Prison Guard

Injured in an unusual motor vehicle accident near his home on the old Greenville Road last Saturday afternoon about five o'clock, John Fenner Beacham died in a Washington hospital last night at 9:40 o'clock. He never regained consciousness.

Returning home as one of several passengers in his brother's truck with Christmas packages for his large family, Beacham lost his balance when the truck swerved and fell out, his head apparently striking some part of the truck before he fell to the ground. He suffered a skull fracture and possibly other injuries.

The accident was the only one to prove fatal in this county during the Christmas season.

Mr. Beacham was the son of John R. Beacham, of near here, and the late Olivia Mary Beacham. He was born in Beaufort County 30 years ago and moved with his family to Martin when he was about eight years old, locating on the Garrett farm, near Williamston. For the past seven years he has been in the employ of the State as guard at the Martin prison camp. He handled his work well and was highly regarded by his superiors.

Twelve years ago he was married to Miss Essie Bullock, who survives with six children, John Frank, Essie Ruth, Joseph, Willie James, Connie Viola and Leslie Howard the youngest being only ten months old. He is also survived by five sisters, Mrs. James Wynne, of Washington; Mrs. Lillie Taylor, Mrs. Roy Manning, Mrs. Gladys Bonds, Mrs. Marie Goff, all of Williamston, and four brothers, Roy Beacham, of Washington; Charlie, William Lawrence, and James Henry Beacham, all of Williamston. Funeral services were held this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Bethany Holiness Church. Rev. Tom Harris conducted the last rites.

To Appoint Health Officer At Meeting

A health officer to succeed Dr. F. E. Wilson, resigned, will be appointed by the Martin County Board of Health in special session here this evening. Chairman J. E. Pope announced Wednesday. All members of the board have been requested to attend the meeting.

Two applications have been placed before the board for consideration, but one of the applicants, unofficial reports state, has other offers pending and it is not certain that he will accept should the appointment be tendered him by the board in this county.

Pending the appointment of a new doctor to head the work, the board has not formally accepted the resignation of Dr. F. E. Wilson and it is possible that he will be asked to remain here part-time, at least, until his successor can report for duty.

Consolidation Colored High Schools in County

Third Bus Will Be Placed In Service In County Monday

Colored High School Consolidation Problem Solved, Authorities Say

The problem surrounding the consolidation of colored high schools in Martin County will be solved, authorities say, next Monday when a third bus will be placed in operation and transportation service is extended to a large portion of Goose Nest, Hamilton, Cross Roads and Robersonville Townships. The new bus, purchased cooperatively by the county, school patrons and teachers, will serve approximately 50 pupils in the four districts. The added service boosts the total high school enrollment in the two schools, Williamston and Parmele, to 317-167 at Williamston and 150 at Parmele. "While there may be some few minor changes in the consolidation program as it now stands, we consider the problem solved almost in its entirety," a representative of the board of education said in announcing the expanded service.

At the present time two buses are serving the colored high school in the two towns. A bus operating out of Dardens, is bringing around 60

Prominent Citizen of County Died Thursday



Recognizing him as a valuable friend and citizen, an entire people unite here this afternoon to pay a fitting tribute to Mr. Harrison who died in a Richmond hospital early yesterday morning.

David W. Wright Died Sunday At Jamesville Home

Retired Farmer Was Ill For Short Period With Heart Trouble

David Washington Wright, retired farmer and well-known county citizen, died at his home in the Dardens community of Jamesville Township, last Sunday night at 9:30 o'clock. Apparently enjoying his usual health Mr. Wright was taken ill only a few days before his death, the end coming unexpectedly and suddenly following an heart attack.

The son of the late William E. and Frances Waters Wright, he was born in this county 67 years ago. He spent most of his life on the farm. He was long a member of the Corinth church and was active in its support. Mr. Wright was quick to make friends and was highly regarded in his community.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Ida Watson who died 33 years ago. About five years later he was married to Miss Gertrude Mizelle who preceded him to the grave about eight years ago. Since that time he had made his home with his sister, Mrs. Charles Hinson.

One daughter, Mrs. Elsie V. Jefferson, of Churchland, Va., survives. He also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Chas. Hinson and Miss Nora Wright, both of Jamesville Township. Services were conducted in the church where he held membership Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by the pastor, Rev. Duffy Toler, of Washington. Interment was in the churchyard.

WARNING

Warning that all owners who operate their motor vehicles without the shining 1940 license plates will be subject to arrest, the Department of Revenue is urging the purchase and display of the new plates on or before that time. No extension will be granted for the purchase of the tags.

Crack Down On Alleged Violators Of Health Law

Unable to get them to report for treatment through persuasion and warnings, the Martin County Health Department started cracking down upon alleged violators of the health laws. Forty warrants were drawn by Health Officer F. E. Wilson this week, and a marked increase in the attendance upon the syphilis clinics followed. Two of the forty upon whom warrants were served failed to report, and their arrests were ordered late yesterday. At the present time more than two hundred persons are receiving treatment in the clinic here and in Robersonville.

Plans Go Forward For Listing 1940 Taxes In County

Funeral Services For C. A. Harrison Held Here This Afternoon

Beloved Citizen Passes in a Richmond Hospital After Lingering Illness

Claudius Augustus Harrison, well-known local citizen and a prominent business man in this section of the State, died in a Richmond hospital yesterday morning at 3:45 o'clock following a lingering illness, the end coming peacefully after a valiant fight for life. His three daughters, his wife and her mother, Mrs. Blanche Anderson, were at his bedside when the end came.

Reported to have been unusually bright last Tuesday, Mr. Harrison talked with friends for a few minutes at intervals and assured them that he would be able to return home in about one week. Wednesday his condition was not so favorable and late that night a change for the worse was quite evident. Just a short while before the end he became nauseated and his heart, weakened by an incurable ailment, abandoned its beat.

Treated by able doctors and with the best medicines modern science could produce, Mr. Harrison fought a determined fight for a life that he seemed to enjoy in all its fullness and in every minute of the day. Once or twice during his ten weeks' stay in the hospital, his condition became grave, but the determined spirit of Gus—and nearly everybody called him Gus—possessed snatched him from death, and until the end he held a great hope for recovery and his return home to loved ones and to an untold number of friends.

After a stay of about five weeks in his bed at home, he was removed to the hospital. His many friends eagerly sought news of his condition day in and day out, and they, too, held to a hope for his return until the last. While greatly appreciative of everything that modern medical science could do in his behalf, Mr. Gus longed to return home. Members of his family and his friends wanted to see him return, but the move was not considered advisable by attending physicians. But he never gave up hope, and possibly the will to live existed to the last second in his mind and heart.

News of his death came here early yesterday morning as a great shock to all, for reports just a short time before then indicated that he was holding his own, that all hope had not been abandoned. The news as it spread to all corners here seemed to cast sorrow in the minds of everyone in every station of life.

Claudius Augustus Harrison was born in Bear Grass Township on August 5, 1888, the son of the late Cushion B. and Martha Taylor Harrison. In his early youth on the farm there was something instilled into his character that ever shedded a cheery light under all conditions. Possibly the humble teachings of God-fearing and righteous parents guided him through life as a youth and later as a man to be liked by everyone he met and learned to know.

While Mr. Harrison never shirked a duty on the farm, he had his heart set on merchandising. And at an early age and after completing the schooling offered in his community, he came to Williamston to continue his education. His time after school hours was not spent in idleness. He worked at various jobs ever holding his course toward a definite goal, a course that was destined to lead him to the front as a prominent citizen and business man. He also attended school at Buies Creek and Elon College, completing his education in a business school at Richmond. In 1910 he entered the employ of Baker and Roberson, a big

firm. He was a member of the Baptist church and was highly respected in the community. He was a man of many talents and a great help to those in need. He was a true friend and a great loss to the community.

Funeral services were conducted Christmas afternoon by Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister. Interment was in the Oak City cemetery.

Will Hyman Dies At Home In Oak City

Will Hyman, retired farmer, died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Alice Harrell, in Oak City last Sunday afternoon following an illness of only a few weeks' duration. Suffering a stroke of paralysis about a month ago he was confined to his bed, the end coming gradually.

Extend Rural Electric Lines In The County

Martin County's rural electric system continues to grow, the Virginia Electric and Power company just recently energizing a four-mile extension in Jamesville Township. Twenty-two customers were added to the system, the addition placing the county well above the average in rural electrification progress.

List-takers Are Determining Schedule of Values at Meeting Today

Plans for listing all real and personal property in the county as of January 1, 1940, are being advanced at a meeting of the ten list-takers, the tax supervisor, S. H. Grimes, and county authorities here today. Mr. Grimes announced last evening.

No change was effected in the listing personnel, and no marked variation in listing methods is anticipated for the new year.

Commenting on the change made in the time for listing property, Supervisor Grimes pointed out that it was generally believed that farmers and others would have more time and would find it more convenient to list their holdings in January than in April when activities on the farm are pressing. The supervisor would offer no comment as to what effect, if any, the change in the listing date would have on the assessed values. Farm provisions are likely to show an increased inventory, and possibly other holdings will reflect an increased value as of January 1 than they would on April 1.

More attention is being centered on the farm survey handled by the list-takers for the coming year. All farmers are urged to present an accurate and detailed report of their farming activities. No effort will be made to get a preliminary survey of 1940 farm plans, but the farmers are especially urged to make a thorough review of their 1939 activities and have ready information as it relates to acreages planted to various crops, production and so on.

Under the law, listing activities are to be completed during the month of January. Any extension must be granted or approved by the county commissioners, and since delayed listing increases the cost of the work it is understood that the authorities are not considering extending the listing date next year.

Holiday Cases In The Mayor's Court

A rough holiday season in some quarters here is reflected in the trial docket recorded in Justice J. L. Hassell's office. Six cases were handled during the holiday period as compared with no cases handled during the Christmas season a year ago.

Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost in the case charging Albert Richards with disorderly conduct.

John Rogers, charged with operating a car without driver's license, was fined \$10 and taxed with the cost.

Charged with public drunkenness, Gene Anderson was sentenced to the roads for 30 days, the court suspending judgment upon payment of the cost.

Charles Gray, charged with an assault, was bound over to the county court for trial.

Nathaniel Jennett, charged with disorderly conduct, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending judgment upon payment of the cost.

Prined Langley, the colored fellow who almost knocked his wife's eye out in a fight, pleaded guilty of simple assault after his wife declared to the court that they were merely "playing". Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost.

Legal Liquor Sales Increase In County

Legal liquor sales in the county last Saturday approximated the old 1936 holiday trade record, the four stores in the county reporting total receipts for the day in the sum of \$3,517.70. This total compares with \$2,639.20 reported on Christmas Eve, 1938.

The legal liquor business boomed in each of the four stores. Comparative sales reported by the stores for 1939 and 1938 are as follows: Williamston, \$1,753.10 and \$1,340.60; Robersonville, \$1,132.45 and \$780.45; Oak City, \$390.20 and \$291.35; Jamesville, \$241.95 and \$226.80.

Reports from over the county indicate that the increase in legal liquor sales over those of a year ago maintained a close relationship with the increase enjoyed by business in general.

Business in the stores last Tuesday was back to normal, late reports maintaining that there is very little demand for the legalized spirits.

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Accidents Mar Observance of Holiday Season in Williamston And Sections of Martin County

Prizes Awarded for Holiday Decorations Here Last Week

Winners of the local Christmas decoration contests were determined by three out-of-town judges last Saturday night following a long and careful inspection of the artists' arrangements.

Prizes, totaling \$30, were awarded to the following according to classifications: Interior decorations: Belk-Tyler, first; Davis Pharmacy, second. Porch or house: Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Mercer, first; Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Norton, second.

Yard: Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Green, first; Mr. and Mrs. David M. Roberson, second. Window: Margolis Brothers, first; Peele Jewelers, second. First prizes were \$5 and second, \$2.50, all in cash.

Cheer Movement in This Community Is A Marked Success

Aid Extended To More Than 125 Less Fortunate Ones During Holiday

Extending aid to and sounding a cheery note for 427 needy persons in this community during Christmas, the sponsors of the Christmas Cheer fund recognized the movement as the most successful ever advanced here. The friendly hand of a thoughtful people was extended to 105 families in this and four nearby townships, and suffice it to say that happiness in no fuller measure could have been created with as little money as was created by the contributions made by hundreds and handled by representatives of the Kiwanis club.

Recognized as one of the most important of its kind, the movement brightened many homes and made the hearts of hundreds of little tots and aged ones too, sparkle as gold against a silver background. Every contributor, be he large or small, can rest assured that he helped make some sad heart glad and created anew a firmer faith in mankind. The gleeful expressions, so pronounced on the faces of the recipients, repaid in full measure every cent contributed and every gift devoted to the movement.

Receiving a total of \$171.81 in cash contributions, and with a large and valuable collection of toys, the sponsors did a valuable work in chasing gloom from the homes of 105 families. Added to the cash contributions and toy collection, were gifts from the various Sunday schools, classes, individual merchants and others.

The Watts theatre free show brought in one of the largest and most select collection of fruits and toys ever received, the sponsors pointing out that the theatre management, Mr. Watts, and all others combined to make the movement pleasingly successful. The undertaking proved quite a task, but willing workers easily handled it. Distribution was effected from the primary school building, truck and cars operating during a greater part of Saturday morning in placing the prize bundles in the hands of the needy. The packages were made up of flour, rice, salmon, sugar, pork and beans, candies, nuts, fruits, toys, and an occasional article of clothing. The welfare department was active in assisting the work and Messrs. Edward Corey and Leman Barnhill supplemented the

(Continued on page four)

Oak City Youth Is Accidentally Shot

Thomas Haislip, senior in the Oak City High School, was critically shot while hunting near his home in the Hassell section of this county Christmas day. Accidentally firing his own gun, the young man, son of County Commissioner and Mrs. H. A. Haislip, was struck in the right arm just below the elbow. The load of shot from the gun tore through his arm, reports from a Tarboro hospital where he was entered for treatment stating that it could not be definitely determined whether he would lose the limb.

The young man, hunting with several companions, had stopped to rest and placed his gun down beside a tree. Making ready to continue the hunt, he stepped on a log, and caught the barrel of the gun. As he pulled the gun up, the trigger apparently struck a bush, causing the gun to fire.

It was the only serious hunting accident reported in the county during the holidays.

Mar Observance of Holiday Season in Williamston And Sections of Martin County

The judges, Messdames W. E. Mabley, Alton Grimes and Bruce Everett, all of Robersonville, made the awards after a complete survey of the decorations. Nearly 100 homes and yards were attractively decorated, the practice being quite noticeable in and around a number of colored homes. Reports state that many homes along rural power lines were brightened by wreaths and trees.

A new lighting arrangement on the municipal water tower attracted especial attention, and the City Hall again was the subject of comment from visitors and travelers from near and far. Old man gloom enveloped the county courthouse.

NO HOLIDAY

With a few exceptions New Year's day will find people working in this section. The day will be observed as a holiday by the postoffice, banks and a few other business houses, but a regular schedule of activities will be maintained for the most part.

The county and town commissioners are scheduled to meet. Judge Peel will call the county court into regular session and business will be carried on as usual.

Robersonville Man To Have Charge of Census In County

Farm and Population Census Will Get Underway In April

Claude T. Smith, well-known Robersonville man, has been named to head the census survey in this county, it was announced this week by the office of D. W. Lupton, supervisor of the census for the first census or congressional district. Plans for taking the business census in the district are now complete, according to Mr. Lupton who was appointed by the office of Congressman Lansday C. Warren to head the work in the fourteen First District counties.

Beginning early in January, Mr. Smith and other appointees are slated to start an extensive survey of business activities in this and other counties. The enumerators will be in conference during several days with Mr. Lupton and the assistant supervisor, Mr. W. A. Everett, of

(Continued on page four)

Chamber of Commerce Meet Here Wednesday

ALLOTMENTS

Delayed by late work by the committees in some counties, the Raleigh office of the Agricultural Conservation program announced this week that it would be about January 10 or 15 before 1940 tobacco allotments can be made available to farmers.

The allotments have already been tentatively determined in this county and are now awaiting action in Raleigh. Set up in the county some days ago, the allotments have been returned for minor adjustments and will be forwarded to Raleigh for final approval next week.

Successful Tuberculosis Seal Sale Reported Here

The sale of tuberculosis seals just concluded here was described this week as the most successful ever held, the seal sale committee, Mrs. H. O. Peel, stating that the total sales amounted to \$80.54 with one or two campaigners yet to render their reports. A portion of the money is forwarded to the central tubercular association, and the remaining amount is used in advancing the work locally.

In reporting the sales, Mrs. Peel stated that Girl Scout Liza Daniel and Alberta Knox led the field and received prizes for their diligent work on Bangle Day.

One Untimely Death Reported In County During The Period

Fireworks Claim Two Victims And Several Hurt In Auto Wrecks

While the holiday period was quietly observed here and throughout the county, the period was not without its accidents, minor disturbances, fights and sorrows, a general survey revealing one untimely death and a series of accidents. The nation, as a whole, labored under a holiday death toll estimated in excess of 680 persons.

John Fenner Beacham, 30 years old, was fatally hurt in a truck accident near the old county home last Saturday afternoon. He died in a Washington hospital last evening.

The only hunting accident was reported in the Hassell section of the county where a young man was reported to have accidentally shot himself in the arm.

Comparatively few arrests were made, but fights and robberies were reported in numbers. Natural deaths saddened several homes, 2 on Christmas Eve and another on Christmas Day in the county, but undertakers point out that the calls were fewer this Christmas season than they were a year ago.

Twelve arrests were made during the holiday period in the county a year ago against four this season, two of them being entered on the jail records during Christmas day.

Several automobile fenders were smashed, but rolling stock went out of control in a big way over in Williams Township. R. E. Swain, district highway engineer of Kings-tree, South Carolina, and his nephew escaped injury, but Clarence Johnson, Plymouth colored man, was badly hurt when their cars crashed near Gardner's Creek last Saturday afternoon. Two persons escaped uninjured when their Chevrolet coupe skidded and turned over near Godard's Filling Station on U. S. Highway No. 64. Damage to the cars will exceed \$300, it was estimated.

Bruce Powell Rogerson, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Rogerson, suffered a severe injury when a small popcracker exploded in his right hand. One finger was torn open, a second was badly burned and the nail on his thumb was ripped off by the bursting firecracker. An exploding popcracker nearly tore off one finger and broke another for young Tom Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Williams, here Christmas day. Fire, starting from an oil heater, upset one family here Christmas day, but no great damage was done to property in the West Main Street home.

Fights were fairly common among members of the colored population, local officers reporting three serious

(Continued on page four)

Edmond Harding To Address Civic Club And Business Men

Final Plans Formulated For Perfecting Organization Of Commerce Group

Meeting in special session at the Woman's Club hall next Wednesday evening at 6:30 o'clock, members of the Lions and Kiwanis clubs and representatives of the various business and professional offices will perfect a local chamber of commerce organization, reports from the special committee appointed earlier this month indicating that preliminary organization work is virtually complete and that more than 100 business and professional men are expected to be present for the session.

Edmond Harding, able speaker-entertainer and secretary of the Washington Chamber of Commerce, will address the group, and an interesting program is assured. A "dutch" supper will be served, and those planning to attend are cordially urged to notify either Mr. C. B. Clark, Mr. F. J. Margolis, Mr. E. S. Courtney or Mr. Charlie Bowers, members of the organization committee.

The need for an active commerce (Continued on page four)