

### Lives Of Several Are Threatened By Drunken Negro

#### Danger Averted When Mother Of Man Grabs Gun from His Hands

The lives of several persons including that of Sheriff C. B. Roebuck were threatened last Friday afternoon when Isaac Willis, colored man, trespassed on the premises of Mr. and Mrs. Philmore Modlin, near Jamesville. No shots were fired, but Willis, said to have been in a drunken condition, displayed his gun to members of the Modlin family and actually raised it to firing position when Sheriff C. B. Roebuck went to arrest him.

Heaving a big sigh of relief after jailing Willis, the officer recounted his narrowing experience between strokes of a barber in a barbershop here that afternoon.

Willis, it seems has had a habit of getting drunk, taking his gun and crawling under homes in that section. He has been in the courts for alleged trespassing on other people's property under similar conditions, and it is understood the recent visit was the second made to the Modlin home. Charged with trespassing, Willis was found not guilty in the county court on September 10, 1935. Two years later he was again in court and was found not guilty in a case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Last Friday he staggered up to the Modlin home, and crawled under the house after he had shown members of the family the loaded gun, and told them he would kill every member of the family if the officers were notified. Mrs. Modlin and her children left home, after passing motorists had notified the sheriff.

Going to the Modlin home, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck found Willis sitting on a ditch bank, just a few feet from the house. As the officer stopped his car, Willis started to raise his gun. "I put the car in gear and drove away," Sheriff Roebuck said. Stopping out of gun-shot range, the officer got out of his car, and Willis started home, walking part of the time, and crawling at times, dragging his gun with him. When Willis went into his yard and hid behind a tree, the officer went around the home and started in the back door. Willis walked into the front door and continued to his room.

The officer explained to Willis' mother that unless he surrendered the gun and submitted to arrest, he would have to possibly shoot up the house. After several attempts, the man's mother finally snatched the gun from Willis' hands, and the officer effected the arrest immediately without injury to anyone.

"It was a setting similar to the one near Windsor several years ago when a colored man barricaded himself in his home and shot it out with officers during a long siege," the officer explained.

In court yesterday, Willis was sentenced to the roads for a term of two years.

### Three Badly Cut In Beer Garden Brawl

Three colored men were badly cut in a beer garden brawl here late last Saturday night, members of the police force stating that Johnnie Powell, Sampson Roberson and Andrew Brown were naturally-born carving artists.

A short time prior to the main bout, a man whose identity could not be established immediately, whipped Carrie Bell Ward near the beer garden operated by Andrew Brown and his brother on Washington Street. The parties to the first disturbance disappeared before officers could reach there.

Its cause not definitely determined, the second fight reached serious proportions in a brief period of seconds. Roberson and Powell were out to scalp each other when Brown moved in to separate them. A flying knife caught him on the arm and ripped a long gash. A neat gash which required about 14 stitches to close, was made in Powell's face. Roberson was cut on the head, the doctors closing the wound with nine stitches.

At a preliminary hearing last evening, the defendants were bound over to the county court by Justice J. L. Hassell for trial next Monday.

### Preparations Are Being Made For Fishing in the Roanoke

A catch of four herrings in the Roanoke River at Jamesville last Friday attracted attention of numerous fishermen who are now busying themselves in preparation for another season. Small nets are all ready for operation, and they will be dipped into the stream just as soon as the weather moderates.

Mr. C. C. Fleming, operator of the Jamesville and Camp Point fisheries for the past 22 years, is having his nets tarred and made ready for use. He explained yesterday that he had ordered several hundred feet of new netting, and that he had already spent more than \$1,000 in preparing for the 1940 fishing season.

No definite date can be fixed for opening the season with seines, but if the weather is favorable and other factors are encouraging, Mr. Fleming plans to start fishing about the middle of March. Ordinarily, the seines are operated until about May 10th.

The herring season on the Roanoke is of far greater importance than many realize. To thousands, the stream offers one of their principal sources of food. The first herrings dipped from the river are ordinarily reserved for the table of the man who catches them. As the small-scale fishermen begin to dot the stream with their drift and dip nets, the fish are offered for sale at five cents straight. As the fish begin to run in greater numbers, the price drops to six for a quarter, and then when the season reaches its peak, sales are made on the basis of about \$10 a thousand.

The past several seasons have not been very favorable for successful fishing. Operators of the commercial plants are looking and hoping for a better one this year.

### Negro Man Murdered In Jamesville Sunday

One of the greatest bargain feasts in the history of local merchandising will be advanced by Williamston merchants on March 7, 8 and 9, it was announced this week by a special committee through Billie Clark, chamber of commerce secretary.

With a 100 per cent cooperation virtually assured, the feast will be centered around three dollar days and plans call for the greatest dollar-day bargains ever offered in a store in this section.

### Noah Thos. Leggett Died At His Home In Hassell Sunday

Funeral Services Are Held Monday in the Hassell Christian Church

Noah Thomas Leggett, respected county citizen and retired farmer, died at his home in Hassell Sunday morning about 9:30 o'clock following an illness of only a few days' duration. Suffering an heart attack last Tuesday, he was stricken with pneumonia Saturday, death following a few hours later.

Mr. Leggett was born in Cross Roads Township nearly 73 years ago, the son of the late John Warren and Bernice Bowen Leggett. He spent his early life there and married Miss Fannie Biggs nearly half a century ago. Disposing of his property in that district, he bought a farm and moved to the Gold Point section, located in Hassell about fifteen years ago. He joined the church in Cross Roads and the last rites were conducted Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Hassell Christian church by his pastor, Rev. J. M. Perry. Interment was in the Mobley Cemetery, Bear Grass Township.

Mr. Leggett was a reliable and hard-working farmer, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

Besides his wife he leaves four sons, Messrs. J. E. Leggett, of Cross Roads; C. H. A. S. and M. W. Leggett, all of Hassell, and two daughters, Mrs. Annie Bland and Mrs. Virginia Williams, both of Hassell. He also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Nicey Wynne and Miss Sallie Jane Leggett, both of Cross Roads, and a brother, Mr. Asa Leggett, of Roanoke Rapids.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

A grim comparison creeps into the record for the seventh week as the happenings on Martin County highways are reviewed for the period, 1939 and 1940.

On February 18, last year, the life of a young man, Coy Van Horn, was snuffed out on a curve near Williamston. So far this year there hasn't been a single highway fatality. And now the big question is: How long can motorists in Martin County hold the Grim Reaper in check?

Possibly for the first time this year, Martin motorists last week bettered their comparative record. So far this year the number of accidents lead three to one over those for the first seven weeks in February, 1939. The property damage is higher than it was a year ago, but the noticeable gain is in human life.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

Seventh Week Comparison				
Accidents In'd Killed				
1940	1	0	0	\$ 10
1939	1	1	1	200
Comparison To Date				
1940	15	13	0	\$1355
1939	5	4	1	890

County Of Martin Has No Connected History On Record

Would Require Years To Get Facts Together, Raleigh Historian Says

While its origin has been definitely traced and a few pertinent facts have been firmly established, Martin County is without a single page of recorded history, a member of the North Carolina Historical Commission staff explained to Mr. W. H. Biggs and a representative of The Enterprise last Saturday when they spent several hours in Raleigh looking up old records surrounding the early history of the county.

"Many of your records were lost to posterity forever back in the last century when the Martin County courthouse was burned," Historian D. L. Corbitt explained. "But there is a world of material from which a fairly complete history can be prepared of the county and its people," the historian added. According to Mr. Corbitt, it will take a man at least four years to search the records and letters, gather the material and prepare it for publication. "It can be done and should be done," the historian said.

The historian has just completed an authentic and complete study of the formation of the 100 counties. The work, soon to be published, was handled over a fairly long period and represents a study centered in hundreds of books and old records. The brief sketch on Martin County points out that the name of the county probably would have been changed had it not been for a popular governor of the same name of the man for whom the county was named in 1774.

Spending some time with the local representatives Saturday morning, Mr. Corbitt explained that the Historical Commission had been successful in gathering tens of thousands of volumes and hundreds of thousands of old letters relating to the history of the counties. He is doing much to unravel the complicated facts and present them to the people in concise form, but individual histories of the counties are out of the question unless local people underwrite and promote the task.

Some idea of the task was gained Saturday when the historian referred to Civil War records which filled 130 volumes, each of which was almost as thick as Webster's unabridged dictionary. But right in those volumes was a complete review of Foster's raid in Martin County. Mention of the capture of Hamilton on July 9, 1862, was made.

There was a story about Colonel A. B. Andrews' attack on the Yankee gunboats as they traveled up and down the Roanoke River. A description of a battle at Gardner's Bridge is to be found in the volume, but the facts, gathered and written by Federal officers, are scattered through most of the volumes, and considerable time will have to be spent if they are to be picked out and recorded in proper form.

The State Library has little material that will be of volume in digging up Martin County history. No copies of early newspapers in the county are on file, the oldest being placed there by The Enterprise Publishing Company back in January, 1901. However, there are many interesting facts recorded in the old books and papers found in the Historical Commission that could be used advantageously in the preparation of a Martin County history. Several counties, including Edgecombe and Halifax in this section have histories, and no doubt, material of interest to this county could be found in them.

Moore, with gun in hand, ran from the scene and hurried down the river bank. He threw the gun under a warehouse and hid along the river bank just a few hundred yards from the scene of the shooting. He was arrested a few minutes later by Officer Paul Holliday and turned over to Sheriff C. B. Roebuck.

Moore, who has been in the courts of the county on previous occasions, claimed that Ray and others in the camp had threatened his life, that they had gotten after him with axes and knives.

Officers stated that Moore was not drinking at the time.

Ray's body was turned over to a local undertaker and made ready for shipment to his home near Fayetteville in Cumberland County. He had been working in this county for about two years.

Kiwanians Enjoy Musical Program

Trained by Turner Slade, former teacher in the county's colored school system, a double quartet gave several musical numbers at the meeting of the Kiwanis club last Thursday night.

Most of the numbers were confined to Negro spirituals. They were sung only as the Negro can sing them, and the program, from beginning to end, was enjoyed by the Kiwanians.

In addition to Turner Slade, the following participated in the program: Lela Chambers, E. V. McClellan, Vera Coleman, E. V. McClellan, James Holly, Hezekiah Spruill, Wesley Ormand and Ethel Simmons.

Warren And Cooley Lead Move To Urge Long-Term Program

Group Shuns Any Attempt To Push Over Plan For More Than Three Years

Farmers are turning their eyes toward Washington today as a special Congressional group, led by Lindsay Warren and Harold Cooley, attacks the tobacco problem. Several amendments are being proposed by the group, and it is quite apparent that the tobacco farmers' plight will be carried to the halls of Congress backed by a determined group.

Three amendments have been proposed, and it is understood that the committee will map plans for handling the battle on the debate floors. One of the amendments calls for a long-term tobacco program, but it is apparent that the special group will not seek a program of more than three years' duration. Tobacco farmers in this section have placed themselves on record as favoring a five-year program. But if they can't get that they will take the three-year program. When the act was first established, congressmen shunned any plan that called for a program of more than one year without placing the issue before a vote of the farmers.

The discussion in Washington today is centering around the three following amendments:

The first is the proposal to provide for longer periods of quota control than one year. Some farm groups want the periods of control increased to as much as three or five years.

At the close of the meeting, Cooley reported that there is no sentiment among House members to extend the period any more than three years; and then there is some question as to how it should be done. Some maintain that farmers should vote for three years or nothing, while others believe that the secretary of agriculture should be given the power to determine from the supplies and stocks on hand prior to issuing a proclamation, how long the control program on which the vote is held will last.

The second major amendment proposed for discussion is one that would permit the secretary to exclude from consideration the tobacco purchased by Great Britain and other countries which, although stored in this country, would have been shipped had it not been for the war.

Cooley explained that if this is not done, the secretary will have to consider these stocks in determining the necessity of issuing a proclamation and the establishment of quotas, which will tend to make the cuts more drastic than they should be.

Thirdly, the meeting is considering amendments which might be of administrative assistance, as for example, an amendment regarding the collection of penalties on over-quota tobacco.

Damage To Local Mill Is Repaired

Closed down by storm damage since last Wednesday, the local plant of the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company resumed operations yesterday morning, reports today stating that the mill is now maintaining a normal operating schedule.

The mill was forced to close last Wednesday when winds of near gale force felled the two smokestacks. No other damage was done to the plant and no one was hurt, but considerable expense was incurred by the owners in repairing and replacing the two large smokestacks.

Late reports state that the high winds exacted a greater damage here than was first realized. A portion of the roof on the old Martin County Bank building was blown off, and heavy rains Sunday evening flooded several rooms in the building, including the liquor store.

"We mopped a quart of water out of the cash register," Mr. Charles Mobley, manager of the A.B.C. store, said in commenting on the damage. Repairs were made immediately and sales were not interrupted.

Dare Working For Improved Highway

Bogged down in mud and cut off by water, Dare County citizens last week directed a strong appeal to the powers for better roads. Commenting on the deplorable situation, the Dare County Times said:

If one Governor of North Carolina could successfully demand his Highway Commission to spend nearly two millions of dollars on a bridge that nobody needed, and a half-million dollars on an Elizabeth City short-cut that nobody wanted, we cannot for the life of us, understand why another governor couldn't as easily demand his highway commission to build bridges across Alligator river and Croatan Sound, and to build the necessary connecting roads between county seats.

### Committee Maps Plan To Aid Leaf Farmers

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### Health Department Work Is Centered In Schools This Week

#### Staff and Visiting Doctors Are Plugging Away for Better Child Health

Aided by two State dentists and a special dental show cast the entire staff of the Martin County Health Department is advancing a far-reaching health program in the schools this week. The regular forces, their work supplemented by that of the dentists and the little puppet show, are effectively battling those physical defects that have had a tendency to make many children repeat their grades.

Opening in Williamston yesterday morning, the puppet show played three schools during the day. Showings are underway in the schools in the upper part of the county today, and tomorrow the players, headed by Mr. Morgan, will appear in the schools at Robersonville and Parmele. Thursday morning the puppet show will be staged at Farm Life at 9 o'clock, at Jamesville two hours later, and at Gold Point at 1:30. The last appearances will be made in Everetts on Friday at 9 o'clock and the Oak City colored school two hours later. The show was well received by school children here yesterday morning.

Dr. Marvin Evans, returning to this county for the second time since the health department was established some over two years ago, has examined the teeth of 1,346 children in the white schools. He has treated 483 in 2,185 operations. More than 150 of the little patients were grade repeaters. Dr. Brandon, colored dentist who has just started an eight weeks program in the colored schools has already treated the teeth of 61 children in 304 operations. Seventeen of his patients were grade repeaters.

The service rendered by the dental forces is easily worth the amount Martin County is appropriating for its entire health program, it has been pointed out.

Other health work underway in the schools this week includes visual tests by Nurse Christine High; a detailed survey of sanitation in the schools by Sanitarian Charles Leonard, and a survey by Dr. John Williams and Miss Mary Stokes Robinson for physical defects among the white pupils.

Commenting on the work, the health officer said, "All this adds up to education for all, correcting dental defects in all that can be done and finding other remedial defects with the hope that the parents will help in correcting them. Repetition of grades is costly and some of it can be saved by ridding children of their physical handicaps."

### Native Of County Dies In Norfolk

Mrs. Hannah Ray, widow of William Ray, died at the home of her daughter in Norfolk last Friday following a long period of declining health. Funeral services were conducted there Sunday, and interment was in the family plot in the cemetery here that afternoon with Rev. James H. Smith, pastor of the Williamston Memorial Baptist church, officiating at the grave.

The daughter of the late Dr. John Sam Cooper Benjamin and Mary Reeves Benjamin, she was born in this county 87 years ago. She spent her early life near Robersonville and moved to Williamston following her marriage to Mr. Ray about 65 years ago. Following his death she moved to Norfolk where she lived for the past thirty years. Her parental ancestors were prominent in Louisiana for a number of generations and she was related to the late Judah P. Benjamin, a member of Jefferson Davis' cabinet during the Confederacy. Her father located in the county a few years before the Civil War and practiced medicine for a number of years.

Two daughters, Mrs. John Bucher, of Norfolk, and Mrs. Essie Ray Wilson, of Washington City, survive. A son, Augustus Ray, died in Birmingham last year.

### Car Operators Pay \$83,837,794 For Gas

Raleigh—Increased travel in North Carolina during 1939 is shown by the large increase in gasoline used, the total amounting to 419,188,971 gallons, it was pointed out today by officials of the state advertising division of the Department of Conservation and Development. This is an increase of 23,563,299 gallons over the amount used in 1938 and an increase of more than 37,000,000 gallons over the amount used in 1937. According to figures obtained from the gasoline tax division of the Department of Revenue motorists paid \$83,837,794 for this gasoline at an average of 20 cents a gallon.

On the basis of figures worked out by the American Automobile Association, 65 per cent of this gasoline was used by passenger cars and 35 per cent by trucks. The AAA also has worked out figures showing that passenger cars now average 14 miles to the gallon and trucks 10 miles to the gallon.