Advertisers Will Find Our Columns a Latchkey to over 1,600 Homes of Martin County.

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 mem-bers of the Modlin family and ac-tually 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 jailing Willis, the officer recounted er factors are encouraging. Mr. fishing Operators of the commercial his narrowing experience between strokes of a barber in a barbershop the middle of March. Ordinarily, the better one this year.

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 afleged trespassing on other peo-ple's property under similar condi-tions, 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 observing the mitter. 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

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. Stopped his car with the car in gear and drove away, "Sheriff Roebuck said. Stopped his car with the car with the car with the car will be car with the car will be car with the car will be car ping out of gun-shot range, the of-ficer 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

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 him-self in his home and shot it out with officers during a long siege," the officer explained

In court yesterday, Willis was sen-tenced to the roads for a term of two

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.

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 determin-

ed, the second fight reached serious proportions in a brief period of sec-onds. 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 rip ped 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 closthe 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.

Predicting Unusual Line-up Of Planets

A rare and spectacular celestial "line-up" of the brightest five planets in the solar system will begin to take shape in the western sky about February 23, and will continue through the first week in March.

Mercury will be near the western horizon shortly after sunset, followhorizon shortly after sunset, follow-ed in order by Jupiter, Venus, Sa-turn and Mars. They will be almost evenly spaced, "hanging one above the other in the twilight glow like a necklace of colorful jewels," ac-cording to William H. Barton, Jr., of the Hayden Panetarium. Mr. Bar-ton added that the spectacle would be so unusual that even eclipses be so unusual that even eclipses would seem commonplace by com-parison. No one now living, he said, will see a repetition of the phenom-

Preparations Are Being Made County Of Martin For Fishing in the Roanoke

A catch of four herrings in the seines are operated until about May Roanoke River at Jamesville last 10th.

Friday attracted attention of numerous fishermen who are now busying themselves in preparation for another season. Small nets are all ready stream offers one of their principal of the principal stream offers one of their principal sources of food. The first herrings

opening the season with seines, but if the weather is favorable and oth-

The past several seasons have not been very favorable for successful

Has No Connected History On Record

Would Require Years To Get Facts Together, Raleigh Historian Says

While its origin has been definite-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 the table of the man who catches them. As the small-scale is theremen begin to dot the stream with their drift and dip nets, the fish begin to run in the stream with their drift and dip nets, the fish begin to run in the stream with their drift and dip nets, the fish begin to run in 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 the season reaches its peak, sales are made on the basis of about \$10 a thousand.

No definite date can be fixed for the table of the man the stream who catches them. As the small-scale is traced and a few pertinent facts have been firmly established. Martin the country is without a single page of the table of the man the value of the stream have been firmly established. Martin the country is without a single page of the stream have been firmly established. Martin the country is without a single page of the man the country is without a single page of the table of the man the country is traced and a few pertinent facts have been firmly established. Martin the value is the properties of the man the stream have been firmly established. Martin the value is the properties of the man the country is the properties. The past several seasons have been firmly established. Martin the value is the properties of the man the value and a few pertinent facts have been firmly established. Martin the value is the properties of the man the value and a few pertinent facts have been firmly established. Martin the value and a few pertinent facts have been firmly established. The value is the value and a few pertinent facts and the value 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 world of material from which a fairly complete history can be pre-pared 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 rec-ords and letters, gather the material and prepare it for publication. "It can be done and should be the historian said.

the formation of the 100 counties. The work, soon to be published, was 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 govor whom the county was named in

Spending some time with the local representatives Saturday morning. Mr. Corbitt explained that the His-torical Commission had been successful in gathering tens of thous-ands of volumes and hundreds of a single-barrel gun. Ray died on his way to a Washington hospital.

Moore arrested.

Some idea of the task was gained Saturday when the historian referred to Civil War records which fill-ed 130 volumes, each of which was abridged dictionary. But right in those volumes was a complete re-view of Foster's raid in Martin County. Mention of the capture of Ham-ilton 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 Rivers. 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 record-

ed in proper form.

The State Library has little mathe camp and asked the men to be quiet and urged Moore to leave. No threat was made by Moore against the lives of Ray and his friends.

The State Library has fitted in the terial that will be of volume in digging out Martin County history. No copies of early newspapers in the county are on file, the oldest being Moore finally left and broke into the home of Joe Bell and stole a shot gun. Unable to find a shell there, he then went to Griffin's store and bought four No. 4 shells and returned to the camp. Ray, realizing that the man intended to kill Moon, inused advantageously in the preparation of a Martin County history. Sevtion Moore fired on him at close eral counties, including Egdecombe range, the entire load of shot taking and Halifax in this section have histories, and no doubt, material of interest to this county could be found

Escape Injury In Auto

No one was hurt and very little damage resulted when the cars of Moore, who has been in the courts Willie Lassiter, local man, and N. Y. of the county on previous occasions, Allen, New York tourist, crashed on claimed that Ray and others in the the Washington Road not far from camp had threatened his life, that Corey's Cross Roads early yesterday

nd knives.

Allen started to pass a truck and headed in a bad fog right into the front of the Lassiter car. Lassiter

BANQUET

Martin County Boy Scouts, their fathers and special friends are expected to march 200 strong on Everetts tomorrow night when the first annual fa-

Committee Maps Plan Health Department To Aid Leaf Farmers Schools This Week

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 spec-ial Congressional group, led by Lindsay Warren and Harold Cooley, at-tacks 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 pro posed, and it is understood that the committee will map plans for han-dling the battle on the debate floors. One of the amendments calls for a one of the amendments cans 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 far-mers in this section have placed themselves on record as favoring a The historian has just completed five year program. But it may can authentic and complete study of get that they will take the three-year program. When the act was first year program. When the act was first year program. When the act was first year program. nandled over a fairly long period any plan that called for a program and represents a study centered in of more than one year without placing the issue before a vote of the far-

day is centering around the three following amendments:

The first is the proposal to pro-vide for longer periods of quota control than one year. Some farm groups want the periods of control increas-

ed 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 ands of volumes and hundreds of period any more than three years; thousands of old letters relating to the history of the counties. He is doing much to unravel the complicated tain that farmers should vote for facts and present them to the peothree 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 proosed 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 mendments which might be of administrative assistance, as for ample, an amendment regarding the collection of penalties on over-quota

Damage To Local

of the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company resumed operations yes-terday 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 consider-Accident Early Monday, able 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 por-tion of the roof on the old Martin County Bank building was blown off, and heavy rains Sunday eye ning 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. Com-menting 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 Alliga-tor river and Croatan Sound, and to build the necessary connecting roads between county seats.

COMPLETE REVIEW

In a meeting here last week, a special committee made up of Beaufort County farmers re-viewed complaints filed by Martin County farmers in connection with their tobacco allotments. The appeals were heard according to schedule, but what action, if any, the committee took could not be learned. It was unofficially learned that no radical changes were made by the com-

mittee.
The report committee has been forwarded to Raleigh where the appeals will be examined and reviewed again, the farmers to learn the action of the committee within the next fifteen days.

Mrs. M. G. Taylor Dies Last Evening After Long Illness

Last Rites Will Be Conducted At Main Street Home Here Tomorrow Afternoon

a Washington hospital last evening at 6:30 o'clock following a long period of illness and patient suffering. In failing health for a number of years, Mrs. Taylor had been confinited by the best for party sighten. ed to her bed for nearly eighteen months. A patient in two hospitals has already treated the teeth of 61 at intervals during the past two children in 304 operations. Seventeen of the time since last October in a Wesherte best of the time since last October in a Wesherte best of the time since last October in a weeks program in the colored schools of his patients were grade repeaters. of the time since last October in a Washington hospital. Her condition regarded as serious for months, became worse last Friday when she lapsed into unconsciousness, the end coming peaceably three days later.

The service rendered by the dental forces is easily worth the amount Martin County is appropriating for the chiral street countries. The daughter of the later pointed out

oming peaceably three days later.
The daughter of the late John A.
The daughter of the late John A.
And Martha Jones Bennett, Mrs. Tayand Martha Mar died ten years ago. In the latter part of 1924 Mr. and Mrs. Taylor moved to Williamston and made their home on West Main Street.

No children were born to the union. She leaves three sisters, Mrs. G. W. Manning, of Oak City. Mrs. M. L. Bellamy, of Raleigh, and Mrs. W. T. Stinnette, of Williamston; and three brothers, Messrs. W. B. Bennett and J. T. Bennett, both of Oak City and Millon F. Bennett, of Page 1981. City, and Milton E. Bennett, of Ro-anoke Rapids.

Funeral services will be conduct ed from the Main Street home Wed nesday afternoon at 2 o'clock by El der B. S. Cowin and A. B. Ayers, In terment will follow in the family plot on the Jones farm in Bear Grass Township where her mother was born and reared and where Mr. Taylor was buried.

A member of the Primitive Bap

co.

mage To Local

Mill Is Repaired

Mill Is Re Closed down by storm damage ince last Wednesday, the local plant without complaint and with as little trouble as possible to ing her long stay in the hospital, her her early life near Robersonville thoughtfulness of others even in and moved to Williamston following times of her own distress gained the her marriage to Mr. Ray about 65 sympathy of all the members of the spital medical and nursing staffs who did everything humanly possi-ble to lessen her suffering and brighten the closing days of a good and noble Christian life.

Record Traffic Is Reported by Coast Line on Local Run

A freight traffic boom sur passing anything the World War period had to offer is being re-ported these days bp the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Com-pany on its branch from Rocky Mount through here. During re-cent weeks, the two regular freight trains have had more than they could handle, and extra trains were operated on Sun-day to maintain freight deliveries. On several occasions, the trains doubled back to pick up cars they could not handle at

one time. The climax was reached last The climax was reached last Sunday when the company inaugurated a special schedule to be maintained on the Rocky Mount-Plymouth branch until further notice. On its first run that day, the train pulled out of Rocky Mount with 65 carloads of freight. It is the first time on record, as far as it could be learned, that a train with as many as 60 cars was ever opermany as 60 cars was ever operated on the company's tracks in this section.

At the present time, the com-pany is maintaining four sched-ules daily and two on Sunday over the branch line.

Work Is Centered In

ESTABLISHED 1899

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-reachng 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 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 Particular and the puppet. schools at Robersonville and Par-mele Thursday morning the puppet show will be staged at Farm Life at 9 o'clock, at Jamesville two hours la-ter, and at Gold Point at 1:30. The last appearances will be made in Ev-eretts 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 morn-

Dr. Marvin Evans, returning to this county for the second time since the health department was estab-Mrs. Chloe Bennett Taylor died in examined the teeth of 1,346 children

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 correcting dental dental defects in all that correcting dental defects in all that correcting dental defects in all that correcting dental denta

tal defects in all that can be 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 Wil-liam Ray, died at the home of her daughter in Norfolk last Friday following a long period of declining health Funeral services were con-ducted 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 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 Confeder-acy. 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 Buch-

er, 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 di-vision 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 av-

\$83,837,794 for this gasonine as an erage of 20 cents a gallon.

On the basis of figures worked out by the American Automobile Assoby the American Automobile associated this gasoline.

ciation, 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.

for operation, and they will be dip-sed into the stream just as soon as the weather moderates. sources of food. The first herrings dipped from the river are ordinarily reserved for the table of the man

Negro Man Murdered In Jamesville Sunday

DOLLAR DAYS

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 announc-

ed 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 döllar-day bargains ever offered in a store in this sec-

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 fol-

lowing a few hours later. Mr. Leggett was born in Cross Rbads 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, lo-cating 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. Inter-ment 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

ides his wife he leaves four 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 (1997). Brown 1997 and 1997 and 1997 are some stress of the same of ginia Williams, both of Hassell. He also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Nicey Wynne and Miss Sallie Jane Leg-gett, both of Cross Roads, and a brother, Mr. Asa Leggett, of Roan-

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

A grim comparison creeps in-to the record for the seventh week as the happenings on Martin County highways are review 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

motorists in Martin County hold the Grim Reaper in check? Possibly for the first time this year, Martin motorists last week year, Martin motorists last week bettered their comparative rec-ord. 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 of-fer 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 Inj'd Killed Dam'ge

\$ 10 200 Comparison To Date \$1335

Goes To Rescue Of White Man And Is Killed By Negro Joe William Moore Is Jailed For Fatal Attack On

Cheatam Ray Martin County's first tragic death of the new year was reported in Jamesville early Sunday afternoon when Joe William Moore, 18-yearold colored boy, shot and fatally injured Cheatam Ray, 22-year-old half breed. Ray was said to have surrendered his life when he intervened for Bob Moon, white man and an-nounced victim of Moore's. His in-

Moore, arrested immediately af ter the shooting, offered a weak ali-bi when questioned by officers and it is apparent that he will be formally charged with first-degree murder when he is given a preliminary hear-ing before Justice J. L. Hassell here

next Saturday. Liquor was at the bottom of the trouble, according to an account of the tragedy released by the sheriff's office here. Employees of a saw mill and occupants of camps on the mill premises, Ray and several friends bought a gallon of liquor from a man named Gilmore. They carried it to their camp and left it while they went for some beer. Moore, who lived on the other side of the mill, was accused of stealing part of the liquor while they were away. A quarrel followed and Mr. Moon. white sawyer for the mill, went to

the man intended to kill Moon, intervened and without any provoca-

effect in the man's abdomen. 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 ar rested a few minutes later by Offi

cer Paul Holliday and turned over to Sheriff C. B. Roebuck. had gotten after him with axes morning.

and knives. drinking at the time.

Ray's body was turned over to a local undertaker and made ready for shipment to his home near Fayette-ville in Cumberland County. He had been working in this county for hout two years. been working in 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 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. Mc-Cloud, Vera Coleman, Eurie Andrews, James Holly, Hezekiah Spruill, Wesley Ormand and Ethel

ther and son banquet will be held in connection with the scouting movement. The ban-quet will be held in the school auditorium there, and Everetts is making extensive preparais making extensive prepara-tions for entertaining the prom-ising youths and their fathers. Scouts from Jamesville, William-ston, Everetts and Robersonville will attend the special event. Dr. M. O. Fletcher, president of the Eastern North Carolina Council, Boy Scouts of America, will deliver the principal ad-dress.