

Four Are Charged With Robbery Of Jamesville Store

Hearing Awaits Outcome of Condition of Man Shot At Belhaven

Warrants, charging Jack Caison, Dennis Gray Woolard, "Bug" Veachey and Walter Willoughby with the robbery of the Martin County Alcoholic Beverages Control Store at Jamesville on December 12, were drawn here yesterday afternoon by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck. A hearing in the case is being delayed pending the outcome of Steve Cromwell's condition, the Martin County officer explained. Cromwell, a member of a large robbery ring, was critically shot while attempting to rob the Norfolk Southern station at Belhaven early last Saturday morning. Cromwell was removed to the State Prison hospital from Washington and is said to be getting along very well, late reports stating that he will recover barring unforeseen complications.

Following Cromwell's arrest, railroad detectives, State Bureau of Investigation and county officers in several North Carolina and Virginia counties started closing in on the ring. Eight persons have been arrested in connection with a series of thefts in Eastern North Carolina, in Norfolk and other Virginia points.

It is understood that members of the rings are wanted in two more counties in this State and in Norfolk. The various officers are still working on the case and they are expected to hold a meeting shortly for prosecuting the members of the ring. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck stated that evidence in the case in which Caison, Woolard, Veachey and Willoughby are charged with robbing the store in this county could not be divulged at this time. Apparently sufficient evidence has been gathered in the case to procure a conviction in the case originating in this county.

At the present time, members arrested and charged with participating in the ring, are being held in separate jails. Woolard is in the jail in this county. He has not talked to local officers, but he did express the wish that Cromwell would "pik out". Woolard is said to have been at liberty under a parole. Caison is in the Greenville jail where Billie Hammons, the woman in the case, is also being held. Veachey and Walter Willoughby, two of the four defendants in the Jamesville robbery case, are being held in Norfolk, a report received by the sheriff's office here state that they would fight extradition.

During the meantime, special detectives working with Norfolk police are carrying on an investigation in Norfolk in an effort to recover some of the stolen property.

Sour Note Heard In State Economy

Pointing out after a pleading fashion that it was Governor Hoey's last request, that he must not be disappointed, legislative leaders in the North Carolina General Assembly in their first act of the new session pushed through a salary increase for four State officers. Instead of getting \$6000 a year, the secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction, auditor and treasurer, will get \$6,600 in the future.

In addition to jacking up the salaries of the four constitutional officers who were left out in the cold two years ago when padded pay envelopes were handed to others of the Raleigh clan, the legislature Wednesday appropriated \$2,000 for financing the inaugural and a general big time yesterday.

An effort was made to reconsider the action at the house session yesterday, but the opposition was "snowed under," but not until legislative leaders went on record as willing to consider the merits of school teachers to salary increases.

After ramrodding the salary measure through the legislature called for a rest period, and little will be done until after the announcement of committees next Monday night.

Few Contagious Diseases Reported

Contrary to general reports, there are comparatively few cases of contagious diseases in the county at the present time. Only three such cases were reported during the entire month of December, but there has been an increase in the number of whooping cough cases during the past few days.

Last month a lone whooping cough case was reported among the colored population in Robersonville. Since the first of this month, five cases of the cough have been reported in the Hassell and Williamston areas. It is believed by some that there are quite a few cases that have not been reported. A chickenpox case near Williamston, and a scarlet fever case in the Parmele section were reported in December.

Unofficial reports state that there is a bountiful crop of lice on the heads of quite a few young'uns in some of the schools of the county.

Plans Go Forward for March Of Dimes and Birthday Ball

Plans were announced virtually complete today by County Chairman, Dr. E. T. Walker, for handling the March-of-Dimes and holding the President's annual birthday ball in this county as a part of the nationwide drive to raise funds in the fight against infantile paralysis.

To be handled locally under the direction of the Junior-Woman's Club, the March-of-Dimes gets underway on Saturday of next week, the county chairman announced. The birthday ball will be held in the Williamston gymnasium on Tuesday night, January 28. Hal Thurston and his band have been employed for the special event, and admission prices have been lowered below former figures. "We are interested in getting more people to support the campaign against infantile paralysis and we believe an admission fee of \$1 will cause more people to attend the dance," Chairman

Walker said in explaining the reduction from \$1.50 to \$1.00.

Efforts are being made to advance the drive on a county-wide basis, and the general public is urged to participate. District chairmen have been named and they are expected to cooperate in every way possible and to support the March-of-Dimes. The names of the chairmen are: D. N. Hix, Williamston; L. W. Anderson, Robersonville; J. Q. Patrick, Everetts; T. O. Hickman, Bear Grass; Mrs. Marion W. Beach, Gold Point; J. T. Uzzle, Jamesville; R. P. Martin, Farm Life; B. B. Castellow, Hamilton; H. M. Ainsley, Oak City, and George Haislip, Hassell.

Similar events are being planned throughout the nation. In years past this county has raised comparatively small amounts for financing the drive against infantile paralysis. A better showing is anticipated in the county this year.

New Chief Outlines Program For State

PEANUTS

Peanut deliveries to houses at this point after reaching an all-time record just before the holidays are dragging at this time, a report from the government storage house operators this morning stated. Less than 1,000 bags had been received up until that time since Monday, and it is fairly certain that deliveries will continue small during the remainder of the season.

Showing added strength, the open market is reporting slightly increased activities, one report stating that sales had been made at 3 1-4 cents and that in exceptional cases 3.40 cents had been paid the farmers.

President Asking \$212,000,000 For Parity Payments

Action Seen As Concession To American Farmers By The President

President Roosevelt was reported authoritatively this week to have broken precedent by putting in his budget message to Congress \$212,000,000 for farm parity payments for the first time.

That is the same amount voted by Congress in 1940 despite the President's omission of the parity item from last year's budget.

Persons who already have seen his detailed recommendations for next year's agriculture department appropriation bill said that the big fund was included primarily as a "further concession to the farmer" and because Congress has appropriated about that much anyway for several years.

The President was reported to have decided to ask that Congress make the full sum available for parity at his discretion but to appropriate only \$50,000,000 in cash and authorize the agriculture department to borrow the rest as needed from one of the government's lending agencies.

"That will help keep the total of the money request down to a lower figure" said one of the President's advisers privately. "It will look much better on paper."

The parity fund would be in addition to the \$500,000,000 in basic soil conservation benefit checks that have become a part of the administration's farm program.

It is generally understood that the item in the budget message will take care of added parity provided for tobacco farmers under the Flannagan Act passed by the 76th Congress.

Child Passes In Tarboro Hospital

Jerry Harrell, two-year-old son of Francis and Mrs. Blonzie Pearson Harrell, died in a Tarboro hospital last Tuesday afternoon. In ill health for some time, the little fellow was taken worse on Christmas day and was later removed to the hospital for treatment.

Besides his parents, he leaves a sister, Barbara, three years old.

Funeral services were conducted at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Pearson, in Oak City yesterday afternoon by Rev. Mr. Leggett, Bertie County Baptist minister. Interment was in the Oak City Cemetery.

Broughton Delivers Impressive Message To New Legislature

State and Federal Governments Are Harmonized By New Governor

Governor J. Melville Broughton, in his inaugural address at Raleigh yesterday afternoon, made a marked impression on the minds and hearts of the common people when he applauded the national administration and touched on the secondary road system of the State. His is a broad program, to be sure, but in it is seen the opportunity of advancement for the State and all the people.

A great celebration was held to mark the passing of Clyde R. Hoey from the chief executive's seat and to usher in Mr. Broughton. Comparatively few people from this county were present for the extensive and formal program which got underway shortly before noon yesterday and lasted well into the night.

The new governor's program is centered around 46 recommendations which are grouped under 20 major points. He recommended that the legislature:

1. Continue a balanced budget.
2. Keep the sales tax but add exemptions for "essential food for home consumption," and make no substantial changes or additions in taxes.
3. Provide retirement programs for all state employees, including teachers.
4. Enact immediate laws prohibiting the unrestricted and unrestrained selling of so-called fortified wines.
5. Adopt a resolution immediately applying President Roosevelt's defense and aid-for-Britain programs.
6. Provide a new congressional district and reapportion legislative membership. Both on the basis of the 1940 census.
7. Provide adequate appropriations for higher educational institutions, public schools, vocational education, adult education, reasonable expansion of the public health program, state hospitals and institutions, and for reasonable increases in teacher salaries if it can be done within available revenues.
8. Provide reasonable security for teachers in their jobs, set a goal for a standard nine-months school term and a 12th grade; consider advisability of submitting a constitutional amendment to vest a board of education with all of the state's authority in school administration; and consider raising the age for compulsory school attendance from 14 to 16 years.
9. Provide state aid for public libraries.
10. Provide for strict adherence to the "principle of a state highway system"; take note that "much of our primary road system must be entirely revamped or rebuilt"; provide a budget which would not necessitate highway fund diversion; and make adequate provision for farm-to-market and home-to-school.

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Sickness Strikes Blow In Employment Office

Sickness all but disrupted activities in the State Employment office here during the past few days, but scheduled activities have been carried by night work on the part of the skeleton force.

Mr. Mark Ross is quite ill in a Washington hospital where he was carried for treatment last Friday.

Cyrus W. Bazemore, office chief, is confined at his home with influenza.

Miss Natalie Gould just returned from a Richmond hospital last Tuesday after undergoing treatment there for a few days.

Staggering Amount Asked In Financing Country's Defense

Proposal Would Permit British Shipyards To Enter

While domestic needs continued to hold their position, attention of the Congress this week was directed to the necessity for a "total defense" by President Roosevelt in his annual budget message. Asking for \$17,485,528,049, the President would use eleven billions of the amount for building up the nation's defense. And these figures do not include needed monies for financing aid to Britain, Greece and China, some political observers estimating that the aid program will require from two to five more billion dollars in the next fiscal year.

By the end of June 30, 1942, it is estimated that the national deficit will approximate fifty-eight billions of dollars. Only once before has a budget larger than the one this week been proposed. Spending reached eighteen and one-half billions during one year in the first World War. Action in Washington this week opened the eyes of many and proved beyond all doubt that war in Europe does affect us and tends to wreck our economy.

While the President was preparing the nation's finances for total defense, military leaders were bringing their forces into line. Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox announces that the navy will have three fleets, that 42,000 more men would be called in manning the Atlantic, Pacific and Asiatic fleets.

On the war front attention still centers in the Balkans. Reports state that Hiler is marching his men into Bulgaria preparatory to starting a drive against Little Greece. The situation there isn't clear as that however, as one report states that Germany and Russia have not yet ironed out the problem. According to some dispatches, Hitler plans to encircle Greece beginning within the next two weeks. Correspondents on the scene declare that little can be accomplished by Hitler in that territory before spring because of deep snows and weather conditions. That the Bulgarian situation has not been agreed upon by German and Russia is borne out in late reports which claim that Hitler has not yet sent his soldiers into the territory. Germany denies the report that she had invaded Bulgarian, and it is be-

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Dispose Of Eight Cases In County's Court Last Monday

Drunken Driving Costs Defendant \$75 With Case Costs Added

Calling eight cases, Judge W. H. Coburn and Solicitor Don E. Johnson worked until one o'clock last Monday clearing the docket in the county recorder's court. Drunken driving was frowned upon by the judge when he increased the minimum fine from \$50 to \$75 in one case.

Proceedings in the court: The case charging Samuel Williams with bastardy was not pressed with leave. It was after this case had been handled by the court and before a second one against him could be called that Williams escaped from Constable Charlie R. Moore who tried to accommodate the defendant. Accompanied by the constable, Williams went in search of money and a bond and left the officer reading a detective story.

In the case charging Alton Lilley with an assault with a deadly weapon, Judge Coburn adjudged the defendant guilty under a plea of innocence and fined him \$10. The costs were added and Lilley appealed to the superior court. Bond in the sum of \$100 was required. At the trial evidence was offered tending to show that James Holliday, the prosecuting witness, was the aggressor. Holliday was said to have intervened when Lilley allegedly attacked a small boy in a Jamesville store some weeks ago. Holliday was dangerously cut.

The case charging Joe Lanier Godard, Jr., with operating a motor vehicle while his license was revoked.

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GREEK FUND

Receiving another urgent appeal for the embattled Greeks and suffering civilians, local people are again offering aid to the little country. Reporting \$10.50 collected just prior to the Christmas holidays, the local committee, headed by Rev. John Hardy, now has \$27.50 in the fund.

A report of the donations follows:

George Sfezos	\$15.00
D. R. Davis	1.00
Mrs. A. E. Dunning	1.00
Previously reported	10.50
Total	\$27.50

Official Population Figures For Martin County Released

Showing a gain of 2,711 persons Martin County reported one of the largest population increases of any of the strictly rural counties in this section of the State, according to official figures released this week by the Bureau of Census, Washington, D. C. While the increase, 11.6 per cent, for the past decade was slightly smaller than that for the 1920-1930 period, it stands way out in front as compared with percentage gains for most of the neighboring counties. Bertie reporting 1.4 per cent, Beaufort 4 per cent, Edgecombe 2.6, Halifax 6.1 per cent. The several towns in the county reported a combined percentage gain of 27.4 per cent while the strictly rural communities supported an increase of almost 6 per cent.

All but three of the ten towns reported population gains. Jamesville and Williamston reporting gains of 45 per cent each, Parmele a gain of

22.3 and Robersonville an increase of 19 per cent over the 1930 figures. The population in the ten towns jumped from 6,27 in 1930 to 7,996 in 1940, a gain of 1,719 or 27.4 per cent.

The following figures show the 1940 and 1930 population by towns, rural communities combined and gain-loss and totals:

	1940	1930	Gain
Jamesville	499	344	155
Bear Grass	114	131	17*
Williamston	3966	2731	1235
Everetts	265	270	5*
Robersonville	1407	1181	226
Gold Point	142	121	21
Parmele	417	341	76
Hassell	150	169	19*
Oak City	512	481	31
Hamilton	524	508	16
Town Totals	7996	6277	1719
County Rural	18115	17123	992
Grand Totals	26111	23400	2711

Large Increase Seen In Property Values

Hardly A Tenth Of Owners Have Listed Personal Property

Late Listing Will Be Subject To Double Valuations And Prosecutions

Completing their test listings Wednesday, the Martin County property assessors are now working in their respective townships, incomplete and unofficial reports stating that real estate values in many cases are being materially increased. The first report from an individual township board of assessors indicated that a gain of ten per cent in rural real estate had been recorded on an average in twenty-two cases. A test listing for a residence in one of the county towns points to a marked increase in values for town properties this year. Placed on the books at \$3,500 four years ago a certain piece of property in Williamston was appraised by the assessors working in a group at \$8,000, meaning that the property was actually listed at \$4,800. The gain in this case is approximately 37 per cent.

Reports from the personal property list-takers indicate that owners are listing in fairly large numbers in several townships. Up until this morning hardly more than 200 of the personal property owners in Williamston Township had listed their holdings. List-taker Hugh M. Burras stating that every minute of every office hour between now and February would be required to handle the listings for the approximately 1,800 personal property owners in the district. While the listing is possibly proceeding more rapidly this year than last the list-taker frankly points out that long delays can be expected during the rush that is certain to develop during the last few days of the month.

"I have pleaded in behalf of late listers in years past, but it will be impossible for me to do so this year," List-taker Burras said this morning. The list-taker will be busy handling the real listings as prepared for him by the board of assessors and the name of non-listers will be handed over to the County Tax Supervisor for double listing after January 31. Those owners who fail to list their personal holdings and those citizens who fail to give - in their polls will be subject to prosecution in the courts.

A warning has been issued to those citizens over 21 years of age who have not been listing their holdings for taxation or giving in their polls. It has been learned from reliable sources that a close check of the books will be made soon after the listing period is ended and that those who fail to comply with the law will be prosecuted in the courts.

Commenting on the trend of values for that type of property, List-taker H. M. Burras in this township said today that he was fairly certain there would be a substantial increase. He would offer no estimate, however.

It has been pointed out that the personal property owner must visit his respective list-taker and list his property, that the board of assessors are handling only real estate listings.

School Girl Is Hurt In Fall Here Yesterday

Lethia Gardner, fifth grade pupil in the local school, was badly hurt in a fall at the grammar building yesterday noon. Running toward a side door, the girl stumbled and hit her head on the concrete, inflicting an ugly wound in her scalp. Several stitches were necessary to close the wound, but doctors stated that it was not serious.

The accident was one of the most serious reported in the school during the term.

Group Organized To Operate Ball Club Next Season

People Are To Decide Whether Town Will Have Club By February 4th

A dozen or more fans in a meeting here last evening perfected an organization for the operation of Williamston's entry in the Coastal Plain loop this coming season, but other fans and the public at large will determine between now and February 4 whether the franchise will be held here or surrendered to other towns eager to gain a place in the league. Briefly stated, the organization perfected at the meeting last night will undertake to keep Williamston in the circuit only upon the condition that fans will underwrite a stock issuance to the tune of \$2,500 or make outright donations in that amount. That the issuance can be and will be subscribed is considered possible by some; others are not so optimistic, but the public will decide the question during the next three weeks or before the league concludes its annual meeting in Greenville on the night of Tuesday, February 4th.

A strong support was pledged the undertaking at the meeting last night, but it is quite evident that the final decision will rest with the public, as a whole.

At the meeting, Pete Fowden was elected president, Kenneth P. Lindsley, vice president, and Dick Smith, secretary-treasurer. The new directors are Fowden, Lindsley, W. E. Dunn, J. Eason Lilley, T. B. Brandon and J. C. Manning. The officer and director assignments were more or less "planted", the selected ones accepting the posts reluctantly, but pledging their best efforts in the movement to try to hold the club franchise in Williamston.

The action was taken last night when Mr. J. Eason Lilley, president, owner and chief bottler of the club for the past two seasons, definitely told the group that he simply could not operate the Martins this season. He did pledge his support in cooperating with others in keeping the franchise in Williamston. He has offered to sell his equipment at a sacrifice, or he explained that the plant could be rented. Details for taking over his equipment will be worked out by the newly-elected club officers and directors.

A search for a club manager has already been started, but all contracts and plans will be advanced subject to the answer the public will give between now and February 4.

Army Rejects First Martin County Man

Robert Claborn Harris, volunteering for service under the Selective Draft system, was rejected an account of physical defects by Army doctors at Fort Bragg Wednesday.

He was the first volunteer under the Selective Service Act from this county to be rejected. Showing his honorable discharge to county draft board officials here yesterday, the young man stated that he was sorry he could not stay at Fort Bragg. He explained that during his short stay there he had received good treatment. One report stated that the young man almost wept when he learned that he had been rejected.

R. A. Gilbreath, captain in the medical corps, stated that the young man was physically disqualified by reason of severe periodontitis, generalized meaning that the young man had some trouble with his gum tissue or pyorrhea of the gums.

A replacement is being called and Joseph Pender, Jr., is the next volunteer in line for duty. It could not be learned definitely when young Pender would be called, but it is likely that he will leave the early part of next week for Fort Bragg.

View Vister Nicholson, young white man of Williamston R.F.D. No. 3, was rejected yesterday for Army service on account of defective eyesight, leaving fourteen of the sixteen men who went from this county last Tuesday in camp at Fort Bragg. Herman Clayton Williams, also of Williamston Route 3 and a volunteer, is being called to take his place at the Fort.

Two Men Caught At Still Thursday Night

Robert Bailey, white man, and "Red" Rogers, colored, were arrested while allegedly operating a liquor still in Bear Grass Township about 10 o'clock last night. A.B.C. Officer J. H. Roebuck, assisted by special officers from Pitt and Beaufort Counties, made the arrests.

The still was destroyed and ten or twelve gallons of liquor were poured out. The arrests were the first made this year by members of the liquor law enforcement bureau in this county.

According to information coming from the courthouse just before noon today, the two men will be given a preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner Walter Halberstadt this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

COMMERCE MEET

An important meeting of the local Chamber of Commerce will be held in the organization's office in the Guaranty Bank Building this evening at 7:30 o'clock. The future of the organization will likely be determined at that time, and there are several important matters of interest to the town to be considered. All members and directors of the reorganization are urged to attend.

Club Members Agree To Extend Help To Europe's Refugees

Regular Meeting of Woman's Club Held Here Wednesday Afternoon

The January meeting of the Woman's Club was held Wednesday with a small crowd attending. After singing "God Bless America," and repeating the club collect, a short business session was held. The club voted unanimously to help back a Red Cross Production Unit for making articles to send to the war sufferers. Mr. Harry Biggs, chairman of the county chapter, will be in charge of the organization of the unit, such as procuring a place to work and requisitioning supplies. The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Farm Women and 4-H clubs have also signified their intention to aid in this worthy work.

The club decided to buy a \$5 baby bond to assist in tuberculosis work. Reports from various committees were very gratifying. Mrs. N. C. Green reported on the Highway Beautification project and she expects the work to begin next month.

Mrs. W. K. Parker announced the elementary art exhibit on display at the grammar school and invited the members to attend. She also said there would be an exhibit of the old masters' works during February at the high school and the admission fees would be used for getting some prints for the schools.

Mrs. Joel Muse had a very fine report on work done among underprivileged children. She has given clothes and shoes to 30 children, the things being given by the people of the town with a donation from the Red Cross. A vote of thanks was given Mr. F. J. Margolis for his generous support in this work. The Christmas Cheer fund was turned over to Mrs. Muse for the use of her committee.

Mrs. Martin, the president, read a piece, "Our Community Interests," and asked the club to consider sponsoring a campaign for immunization against diphtheria.

Mrs. Harrell Everett, chairman of the education department presented Rev. Z. T. Peiphoff, who showed two pictures, one depicting the cherry blossoms in Washington, and the other the preparation of soup, from the growing of the vegetables to the finished product.—Reported.

Sheriff Files His December Report

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and his force had another busy month during December. Tax collections for the period approached a new high record, and other duties in the office kept the force moving rapidly. The report in detail, follows:

Amount of taxes collected, \$18,976.28; warrants served, 18; capias, 7; subpoenas served, 17; civil papers served, 19-46 copies; claim and deliveries served, 3-5 copies; executions served, 5; ejectment proceedings, 1; investigations made, 13; names on jail record, 54; miles traveled 2 cars, 3,793.