

HIGHWAY DEATHS SHOW DECLINE DURING JANUARY

Roanoke Rapids Counted Two Dead In Month

Highway fatalities for the State showed a decline during January, the total being 73 compared with 92 during the first month of last year, the Highway Safety Division reported yesterday.

The figures indicated a downward trend from the record of 1941, when more than 1,200 persons lost their lives in highway accidents in the State. As a result of last year's bloody record, the Governor, the Highway Commission and the Motor Vehicle Department have collaborated in safety efforts.

The January figures show a decline from six to two accidents in Wake County, which ran up a toll of 58 during last year. Mecklenburg, which counted eight deaths in January, 1941, had just two last month. Declines were reported also in Alamance, Buncombe, Chatham, Columbus, Durham, Guilford, Johnston, and New Hanover.

More deaths for January occurred in Alleghany, Cleveland, Currituck, Edgecombe, Henderson, Lehigh, Moore, Sampson, and Stanly. Cumberland County had the high toll of 12 deaths last month, compared to four in January a year ago.

Among the larger cities, Charlotte, Durham, Raleigh, and Wilmington passed the month without traffic fatalities, whereas each had suffered at least one the previous January. Charlotte had seven killed during January of 1941. Roanoke Rapids, with two deaths, and Salisbury and Shelby, with one each, were the only towns of 10,000 to 25,000 population with traffic deaths in January.

Negroes Drown

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The driver of the car was identified by his birth certificate found in his pocket as John Willis Stone, Jr., of Portsmouth. The other man in the car was identified as Wesley Stone, also of Portsmouth. His Selective Service identification card served to reveal his identity. One of the women was identified as Katrine Stone, wife of Wesley Stone, but officers have not identified the other woman. It is thought, however, that all occupants of the car were relatives.

Officers working with Coroner R. L. Grant said they were of the opinion that the car overturned before it went into the water. They based their conclusion on the fact that a headlight was knocked off the car and a fender was bent. One of the men, Wesley Stone, had a broken jaw and other bruises, while one of the women had abrasions on the head and face.

Coroner Grant of Northampton said that embalming of the bodies revealed no trace of liquor, nor was there any signs of drinking in the car.

Several persons in Jackson, through which the Negroes passed on the way to their death, said that the Negroes were evidently unfamiliar with the roads in the vicinity of Boone's mill. Officers set the time of the accident at about 12 o'clock on the statement of a Jackson merchant that the Negroes had stopped at his place for food about 11:30.

The bodies were kept in a Jackson undertaking establishment until relatives could be reached in Portsmouth.

HURT IN CRASH

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Richmond Hardy, a Rosemary Negro, and skidded across the highway to crash into the side of a taxi owned by Johnson's Taxi Ser-

vice and operated by Bell.

Officers said that the Penny car was going south at a rapid rate of speed and in going over the hill just north of the bridge evidently failed to see the Hardy automobile just ahead, crashing into the back of it and skidding across the highway to meet the taxi head-on, which was going north on the highway.

All three automobiles were badly damaged, the taxi being a total loss. The Penny automobile was badly wrecked, as was the Hardy automobile.

Smith and Penny were en route to Penny's home at Kenansville from Warsaw, Va., for the weekend. The two remained in the Roanoke Rapids hospital until this afternoon, when they were released. Harris received treatment here and was allowed to return to his home. The Hardy Negro was uninjured.

So badly were the cars wrecked that officers and onlookers alike were heard to comment on the narrow escape of the occupants.

CRIME WAVE

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sage and placed himself at a vantage point on the incoming highway from Roanoke Rapids. He recognized the third car that passed him as that described in the message and arrested the driver. The automobile had not been damaged.

An automobile belonging to Marvin Jordan, an employee of White Motor Company, was stolen from where it was parked on 11th street on Sunday night, and was recovered on Wednesday about a block from the point where it had been stolen. It too was undamaged.

The third automobile to be stolen in the past week belongs to a traveling salesman stopping at a local hotel. This automobile was found on a side road near town and had been overturned in a ditch.

Chief Dobbins said that it was significant that none of the tires were stolen from the automobiles, nor the vehicles damaged in any way.

2,920 REGISTER

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orderly fashion and without much delay. Unable to work on account of the rain, the men reported to registration centers early in the day, leaving very few to register in the afternoon and evening.

Local Board No. 1, here in Roanoke Rapids registered 1,497, while Local Board No. 2, at Enfield, registered 1,423, for a total of 2,920 for the county. Board No. 1 served Roanoke Rapids, Weldon and that part of Littleton which is in Halifax county. Board No. 2 served Enfield, Scotland Neck, Ringwood, Hobgood, Hollister, Halifax and Darlington.

A lottery for determining the order number of the late registrants will be held sometime in March, unofficial reports this morning saying that the men registered Monday will be placed at the end of the present selective service pool.

Except for the fact that a few of those registering were not at all sure just how near 45 they were, there was not a hitch in the whole day's registration.


Mrs. N. C. Christensen of Norfolk, Va., spent the week end here as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fanney.

Mrs. J. T. West and Albert Hux of Portsmouth, Va., visited Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Hux over the week end.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Taylor of Oxford, William Davis and Miss Ann Putham of Norfolk, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Bloys W. Britt.

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